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THE TIMES

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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40p

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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 1991

Thatcher warns of EC traps and calls for referendum on single currency

'Let the people speak'

Downing Street refuses to rule out poll idea

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MARGARET Thatcher hijacked the Commons debate on the European Community yesterday, warning against the "conveyor belt to federalism".

She urged the government not to be trapped into a single currency and demanded a referendum for the British people if the three main parties agree on launching Britain on the road to full monetary union.

She said: "Anyone who does not consider it has to explain how the voice of the people shall be heard. We should let the people speak, otherwise we shall be depriving them of their say over rights which are not only taken away from them but from future generations and which we know that once they have gone, they will not come back."

Mrs Thatcher appeared to have made immediate progress last night with her call for a plebiscite.

I never knew she'd LISTEN...
MrsT: 'Let the people speak'
calman

John Major has firmly ruled out a referendum between now and the next election. Only on Tuesday he said there would be no referendum "because we are a parliamentary democracy". But Downing Street last night opened the possibility of a referendum in the next parliament.

It was emphasised that referenda were not merely for governments to propose. If a sufficient number of MPs backed an early day motion calling for a referendum at that stage then the government would be forced to consider responding.

Mr Major, in a careful exposition to MPs of Britain's sticking points, warned his EC partners that Britain was not bluffing in its demands for revisions to the draft treaty for the Maastricht summit.

"They believe that Britain will argue hard against many of the proposals, object to them, protest — but that then we will sign up to whatever is on offer at the 59th minute of the 11th hour. I urge them not to make that judgment. It would be fatal."

Last night, Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, attacked concessions to Britain on the draft Maastricht treaties. He told Euro MPs in Strasbourg that the proposed treaty on political union was so weak as to jeopardise efforts to form the "ever closer union" to which the EC is committed. "Will such a structure be dynamic enough for future EC enlargement? The answer is no", M Delors said.

In the Commons, Neil Kinnock, who provoked a barrage of Tory interruptions after calling a Conservative questioner a jerk, appeared to commit Labour more solidly than ever before to a single currency, telling the government that "opting out would mean losing out" and that there was "no semi-detached arrangement to be had that will serve Britain's interests".

The Labour leader accused the government of "playing for a draw" in negotiations and being ready, for the sake of covering party splits, to consign Britain to a second league in Europe.

Mr Major, who cautioned that it might be that a deal was "genuinely unobtainable", promised the Tory sceptics on a single European currency: "Whether to join, not just when to join, will be matters of separate decision, by government and parliament. Nothing in any treaty I sign will bind us now to the decision we must take then."

He disagreed with those who said that pressures to join a single currency and independent central bank later would be irresistible if Britain did not block both now and said that it was "damagingly wrong" to believe that, if we did, most of the other 11 countries would not then make a separate economic union treaty. Mr Major did call a single currency if convergence conditions were met "the means of safeguarding anti-inflationary policies for the whole of the Community". But that "great prize", he said, carried the price that it would "take from national governments the control of monetary policy".

While Mr Major's speech was listened to with care for the clues to Britain's negotiating stance Mrs Thatcher once more stole the show with a bravura performance. She insisted that there was a string of points on which there must be "no surrender", urged Mr Major to use a cricket bat as the replacement for her handbag and scorned Mr Kinnock's contribution by saying that his argument "if others have it, we must " was "an argument for a flock of sheep".

She urged the government not to become trapped in a process which would make the eventual adoption of a single currency inevitable and warned: "The history of our dealings with the European Community seems to consist of our conceding powers, with reassurances being given about their limits, of those limits being breached, and then the European Community coming back with a new set of demands for more power to the commission."

She spoke of her fears that Douglas Hurd and the Foreign Office had "wobbled" and demanded to be assured of the good faith of the European negotiations.

Mrs Thatcher said that under the circumstances she outlined "the only thing is to go to a referendum because that in fact puts clearly the issue, the merits and the demerits". If her speech was rambling by her past standards it lacked nothing in impact as the glum faces on the government front bench testified. At one stage she appeared to be advocating that Britain should use the veto and let the others who wanted monetary union go ahead with their own treaty.

Delors mocks, page 10
Diary, page 18

Warning note: Margaret Thatcher telling the House to beware of federalism

❛ Nothing in any treaty I sign will bind us now to the decision we must take then ❜

—John Major

❛ There is no semi-detached arrangement to be had that will serve Britain's interests ❜

—Neil Kinnock

❛ Will such a structure be dynamic enough for enlargement? The answer is no ❜

—Jacques Delors

TODAY IN THE TIMES

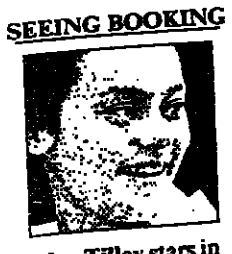
MODERN TIMES

William Waldegrave faces increased pressure with the results of the latest survey on British social attitudes. As the new Modern Times page explains, almost half the nation is now dissatisfied with the NHS
Page 9

BROWNED ON

Craig Brown, who was yesterday awarded the Edgar Wallace trophy for his humorous columns in *The Times* by the London Press Club, today continues his saga of an obscure backbencher's attempts to persuade Sir Norman Fowler to stand as Tory leader **Page 18**

SEEING BOOKING



Meg Tilley stars in *Valmont* and *The Two Jakes*, two of the films reviewed by Geoff Brown
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TV & radio

12 pages of top jobs in today's appointments section, circulated in Britain

Yugoslav army launches heavy attack on new Croat target

By Bill Frost in Sid and James Bone in New York

AS THE evacuation of Vukovar continued yesterday, Yugoslav army batteries turned their sights on a new Croatian target, the city of Osijek to the northwest. A heavy bombardment began at dawn and was still in progress last night. No casualty figures were available.

The renewed offensive against Osijek has fuelled fears in Croatia that the Serb-led army's territorial ambitions were not satisfied by the capture of Vukovar. In Zagreb, the Croatian capital, the belief is that the army will also move against Vinkovci, to the west of Vukovar, which has a substantial Serb community.

Croatian refugees leaving Vukovar in a convoy yesterday also came under fire. Another refugee convoy which tried to reach Croatian-controlled territory was blocked by landmines and turned back. Red Cross officials and federal army troops earlier evacuated more than 400 seriously wounded civilians from the shell-scarred cellar hospital in Vukovar.

Serbian radio claimed yesterday that fleeing Croatian forces had committed a series of atrocities before the town's fall. According to Belgrade Radio's account, the bodies of 40 children had been found in a schoolroom at a village on the northern outskirts of Vukovar. The radio claimed their throats had been cut.

With Serb forces preventing access to the village yesterday, however, it was impossible to verify the report. The Croatian government demanded an international investigation by the Red Cross, the European Community and other groups into the allegations.

The patients at Vukovar hospital, many with critical wounds, were yesterday in the care of Red Cross officials who had been prevented from moving them on Tuesday by last-ditch fighting in the devastated town centre. Red Cross officials were angered by the role of the federal army in the evacuation. "We were to be in charge of moving the wounded to a hospital in Croatia, but they just took over," a spokesman said.

The last few hundred civilian survivors of the siege emerged from the sewers looking haggard, frightened and bewildered. Buses took Serb refugees to the garrison town of Sid and then to emergency centres. Wherever possible they are to be sheltered by friends or relations. For those without either, the future is grim and perplexing.

An old man with a battered cardboard suitcase stood by the refugee bus looking lost. "Where am I to go. I have nowhere to go, nobody who cares. My home is in ruins. I should have died in Vukovar, it would be better," he said.

A mother with her two children and pet dog told of looting in Vukovar before the town fell. A Croat herself, she accused her own people in the

Continued on page 24, col 4

Test for Europe, page 10

Maxwell finances falter on loan call

By Angela Mackay

THE Maxwell family, two weeks after the death of Robert Maxwell, is trying to fend off the threat of receivership, after one of its banks demanded the repayment of a £55 million loan to one of the family's companies.

Shares in Maxwell Communication Corporation fell to a low yesterday, reflecting the market's concern. But Mirror Group Newspapers climbed to a high, after speculation that Kerry Packer, the Australian media owner, was interested in buying a majority stake.

The family's finances are faltering after Swiss Bank requested the repayment of a loan made in July.

Some 25 banks, led by National Westminster Bank, will meet early next week to discuss the family's finances.

Kevin Maxwell, who assumed most of his father's chairmanships, was unavailable for comment last night. He is known to have spent most of the day meeting his lawyers and bankers.

Details, page 25

Israel raises stake in hostage swap

By Richard Beeston in Jerusalem and Ali Jaber in Beirut

ISRAEL yesterday appeared to harden its position on the recovery of its servicemen, when its surrogates in Lebanon raided a Shia Muslim village near the Israeli border, detaining four men, destroying two houses and killing a girl, aged 10.

The action, by the South Lebanon Army occurred just outside Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon early yesterday. The Israeli raid was puzzling since it comes at a time when it is seeking information on the fate of its own servicemen from Hezbollah, but it appeared to send a signal to the fundamentalist Shia militia that the Jewish state is prepared to intensify its current offensive in spite of any disadvantage it might suffer.

Yesterday, Hezbollah said that the hostage issue was no longer linked to the release of Lebanese prisoners held in Israel. The statement appeared to remove the last obstacle to the release of all remaining Western hostages. The Iranian news agency, quoting sources in Beirut, announced that American hostage Joseph Cicippio would be freed next week.

But Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister on a tour of Israeli army installations near the Lebanese border, said: "Our activity is intensive and will continue to be intensive. As long as Hezbollah is in the field we will continue to attack them."

A spokesman for the UN in southern Lebanon said that Irish peacekeeping troops discovered the body of the girl in the rubble of one of the houses blown up by the Israeli-backed militiamen. The men detained were identified as Mahmoud Yassin, his two elder sons and his brother. They were believed to have been taken to the nearby Khiam jail, where Israel is holding an estimated 300 Lebanese prisoners.

The three-way hostage swap process, set in motion by the United Nations, involved freeing all the Western captives, the Israeli servicemen and the Lebanese detainees. The release of the detainees is seen as crucial to the exchange for six Israelis, one of whom, Captain Ron Arad, is still believed to be alive. But yesterday's military action strengthened suspicions that the Western hostage saga will end soon, leaving Israel and Lebanon no nearer to winning freedom for their captives.

Mr Arens seemed to reflect the hardening of positions when he said: "There is no need for gestures, we have already made them."

How Waite was lured, page 3
Egyptian plea, page 13
Leading article, page 19

Waite spun his yarn in the Old English way

By Alan Hamilton

LYNEHAM in Wiltshire, much in the news of late, ought to mean "the first sight of England after a long and enforced absence". But a new book published today declares its derivation to be nothing of the kind, but rather from the Old English, meaning a homestead or enclosure where flax is grown, as in linen. Still, Terry Waite spun quite a yarn there on Tuesday.

Citizens of Nottingham would probably rather not know this, but their city is so called because it was once the dwelling place of the followers of an Anglo-Saxon who rejoiced in the name of Snot. They may, however, take comfort from the fact that, whatever his nasal habits, he is more likely to derive from the Old English *snottor*, meaning wise. Those and many hundreds of other etymological curiosities appear in *A Dictionary of English Places Names*, published by the university press of the ford used by oxen. They are the result of 30 years' research by David Mills, a retired reader in English at London University. Mr Mills said yesterday that some of his derivations might be disputed by pedants, but he had tried to make the work accessible. The last one was published in 1936 and was impenetrably academic, having been compiled by a Swede.

Most English place names are a thousand years old, and some are obvious. Romford means a roomy or wide ford, appropriately enough for the home of Essex Man, the archetypal wide boy with the Escort XR3. Some are nothing like what they seem: Great Snoring, Norfolk, is not named for its sleepiness, but from another local Saxon named Snear. Baldock, Hertfordshire, founded by the Knights Templars, derives from Baldac, the old French name for Baghdad. Fortunately, General Norman Schwarzkopf did not confuse the two. Milton Keynes is not named after the economists Friedman and John Maynard, but is 12th century in origin, meaning the middle farmstead of the de Cahaignes family.

Some place names are magnificently inappropriate in a modern context. In present-day Croydon it would be difficult to find a valley where wild saffron grows, while at Sellafield, the land by the willow-tree mound, the tree may well have mutated into a two-headed sheep by now. Gatwick was a farm where goats were kept; heavily delayed air travellers may think it still is.

Some place names are much more up-to-date. Fleetwood, Lancashire, is named after the Victorian planner who laid it out in 1836, while Peterlee, Co Durham, was named after a trade union leader, Peter Lee. As for Kingston Bagpuize, Sixpenny Handley, Stelling Minnis, Bratton Clovelly, Box, Wem and Wix, they are an entirely different story. And sorry, dwellers in Luston, Hereford; your village is a louse-infested farmstead. But at least Snot didn't live there.

A Dictionary of English Place Names, by *A.D.Mills* (Oxford University Press, £12.95).

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Pupils to be streamed under GCSE reform

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS will have to stream children according to ability under reforms for the GCSE examination announced by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday. The reforms will limit the amount of coursework that can be entered for the examination and introduce papers of varying difficulty to raise the standards of the most able pupils, Mr Clarke said.

The amount of coursework is to be reduced for the 1994 examinations but, as reported in *The Times* this week, in many subjects it will still be double the total 20 per cent suggested by the prime minister earlier this year.

The biggest change will be in English, where coursework will account for up to 40 per cent of the total marks compared with the 100 per cent in half the papers sat by 650,000 pupils this summer. Mr Clarke said he believed that the reliance on coursework had led to a drift of grades, although he accepted that others would argue that the GCSE had led to a large and rapid improvement in standards.

He said his doubts were fuelled by the fact that at the introduction of the GCSE in 1988, 44 per cent of pupils gained grades from A to C whereas the figure rose to 54 per cent this year. In science, which relied on less coursework, the improvement had been from 42 to 47 per cent.

Coursework had its place but could not be relied upon to judge children evenly. "Some teachers are more severe than others in marking coursework while others are more relaxed. An examination will ensure that all the grades are accurate and reliable," he said.

Mr Clarke said that a national system with recognised standards awarding the highest grades only to those who took the most difficult papers would lead to uniform grades. Up to four overlapping papers of varying difficulty in all academic subjects will be introduced at the same time "to stretch the ability of the most able so that they do not have to answer questions foolishly below their ability and to protect the less able being ruthlessly exposed to papers they cannot answer".

He confirmed that the GCSE grading system would also be changed in 1994 from A to G to mirror the ten attainment levels set in the national curriculum. The new grade ten would be superior to the present A, which would be equivalent to nine on the new scale, while G would be equivalent to four.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, accused the government of trying to restore O-levels by the back door. "This is a reactionary return to the worst aspects of O-level, which the government itself abandoned," he said. Labour would reverse the decision if it won the general election.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The government has never given any real educational arguments behind this quite severe [coursework] reduction." The National Union of Teachers condemned the proposals for encouraging streaming and reviving a "straitjacket" education.

Russian criticises British schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH education has grown used to unflattering comparisons with Japan, the United States and other parts of western Europe, but few thought that schools and universities were lagging behind those in Russia.

That is the claim made today by the Russian writer Vitali Vitaliev, who describes himself as an anglophile of many years' standing. In *As Others See Us*, on Radio 4 this morning, he insists that Russians leave school with a better command of their own language and a wider general knowledge. By the age of 11, British pupils are up to two years behind.

Mr Vitaliev says that British university language students cannot spell, geography students do not know the capital of Australia, and even the British Museum gets its Russian wrong.

British youths glory in their ignorance, he says, while the constant shortage of information in the Soviet Union has caused every scrap of knowledge to be treasured. In Britain, by contrast, primary and secondary schools have failed to overcome the prevailing apathy engendered by the ease of access to knowledge, he says.

Mr Vitaliev was a prominent journalist in Moscow until he escaped to the West with his family in 1989. After two years in England he moved to Australia and now lives in Melbourne.

Visits to English and Scottish universities during a book promotion tour last year confirmed his misgivings about educational standards. He had to explain to language students the meanings of words such as tiro, trencherman, oncology and dipsomaniac, as well as correct basic spellings. At the British Museum, he found six spelling mistakes in a three-word Russian caption to a map of St Petersburg.

As Others See Us, at 9.45am, will be repeated on Saturday at 10.45am.

IAN CAMPBELL

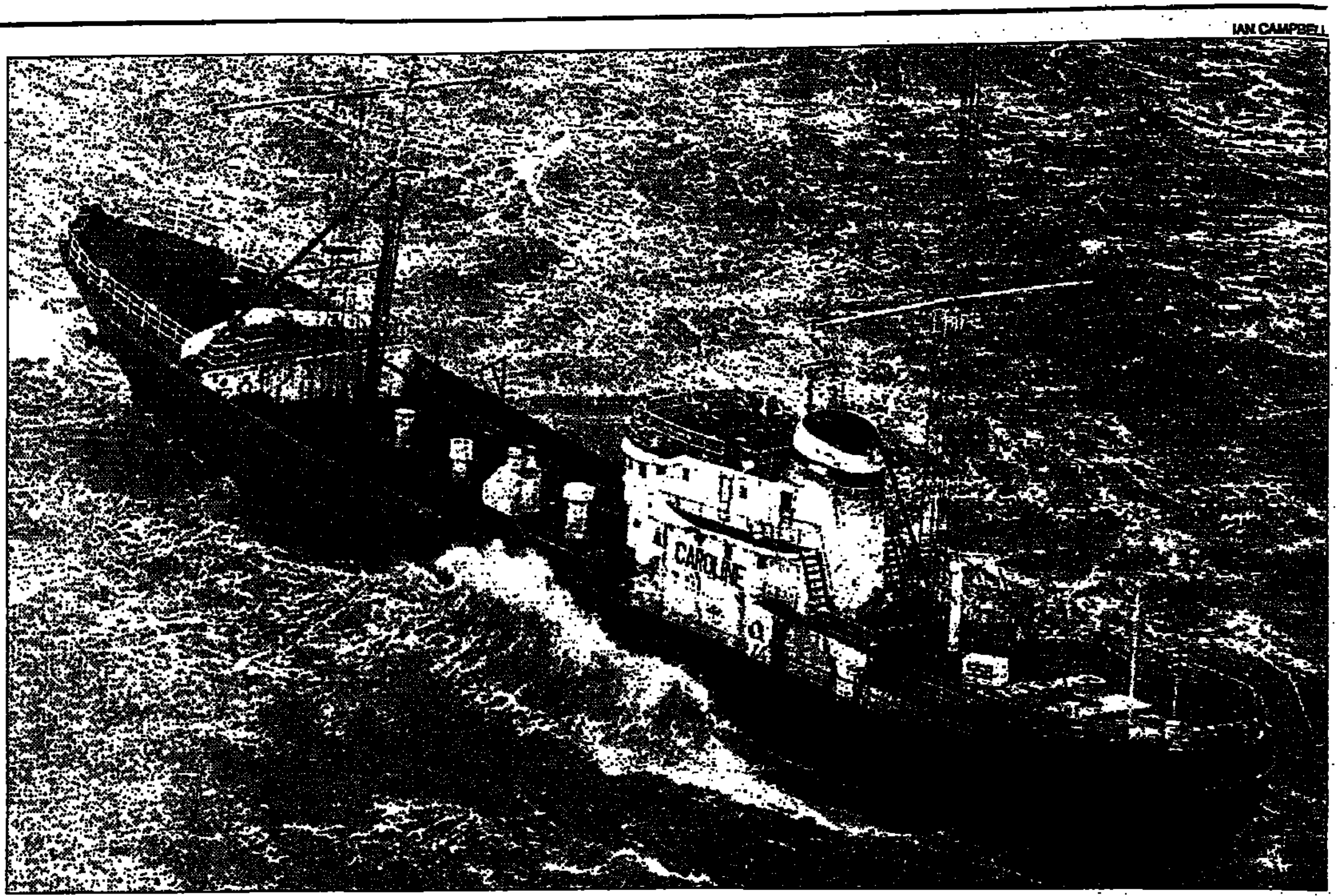

Chart stopper: the Ross Revenge, home of Radio Caroline, founders on the Goodwin Sands off the Kent coast yesterday. The six crew members were rescued by helicopter amid gale-force winds (Peter Victor writes).

Steve Conway, the station's head of news, said: "We may have lost Ross Revenge but Caroline will certainly return in the future in some form." Dover coastguards said the ship, a 980-ton 56-berth converted fishing trawler, was grounded and keeled over on the sands, a notorious spot for shipwrecks.

Mr Conway said the vessel lost its anchor in the rough seas as the six crew members slept and drifted 17 miles. "There was an enormous jolt and everybody was flung into the air," he said. The crew assembled on deck and decided to wait for a tug.

Later, however, the vessel keeled over. A helicopter from RAF Manston winched the crew to safety from the steeply sloping deck as water poured into the cabins.

Radio Caroline, which took to the airwaves in the mid-Sixties, stopped broadcasting in April after being silenced by the 1990 Broadcasting Act, which ended its immunity to raids by British authorities. The legislation stripped the station, anchored 12 miles off the Kent coast, of its protection from legal action.

Caroline was taking steps to become a legitimate satellite broadcaster and had secured airtime on a satellite transmitter to Norway for next Monday, Mr Conway said. The station previously left the sea in 1980, after losing the vessel Mi Amigo.

Coastguards said last night that the ship was probably not lodged in the sand: "Weather permitting, the next high water we may get her off. She has taken a bit of a pounding but that has reduced with the tide falling. I think she probably will survive."

Police to investigate Brixton escape claim

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ENQUIRY is to be held into allegations that a Special Branch operation helped two Provisional IRA suspects to escape from Brixton prison last July.

The investigation follows claims that a prison officer working as a police informant helped to plan the escape of Nessan Quinlivan and Pearse McAuley.

Charles Kelly, the chief constable of Staffordshire, announced the enquiry after allegations made in the television programme *Thames Reports*, which claimed that Staffordshire Special Branch officers, working without the knowledge of the prison authorities or Scotland Yard, used an informant to gain the confidence of the two remand prisoners. The programme claimed that the two suspected IRA men were encouraged to plot an escape in an attempt to lure other terrorist suspects into a police trap.

As Mr Kelly announced the enquiry, Labour demanded that Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, make a Commons statement. Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, called on Mr Baker to "tell the truth".

The enquiry will be carried out by Colin Bailey, the deputy chief constable of Nottinghamshire.

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Dog bite victim gets £55,000

By KERRY GILL

A FORMER veterinary surgeons' receptionist who had a leg amputated after being bitten by one of her employers' dogs was awarded £55,000 yesterday.

Anne Hill, aged 36, of Causewayhead, near Stirling, sued Ian and Margaret Lovett for £150,000 at the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court. The court was told that Mrs Hill was attacked by one of the couple's West Highland terriers while working in a garden behind the surgery in Stirling in October 1986.

She had just finished cleaning a window when the dog jumped out from behind a hedge and bit her. She had to use a chair to force it away. Mrs Lovett treated the wound and Mrs Hill later went to her doctor, but the wound did not heal in spite of repeated courses of antibiotics and six operations.

She eventually asked a surgeon to amputate her leg below the knee and had an artificial limb fitted. She said: "There was just no quality to my life and I asked him if he would amputate and get rid of this thing attached to the end of the knee." The operation was carried out in May 1988.

Mr and Mrs Lovett, who denied liability, said the dogs were not vicious and had no history of aggression. Lord Weir, the judge, said it might be thought remarkable that a small bite from a terrier should have such terrible consequences but medical evidence had shown that sometimes a dog bite could produce organisms which were highly resistant to treatment. He said Mrs Hill had endured years of pain and misery and continued to face handicaps in the future.

He said: "Mrs Hill had shown outstanding courage in enduring, while in her early thirties, these traumatic experiences and she demonstrates resilience of the highest degree in facing the future."

Gummer boosts land protection

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER dozen of England's most beautiful landscapes are to be added to the areas of countryside that farmers are paid to protect, the agriculture minister, John Gummer, announced yesterday, in a move that delighted conservationists.

The Lake District, the Cotswolds and Dartmoor will be part of a substantial expansion of the programme of environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) for farming, with more than a doubling of the English ESAs from ten to 22, more than a trebling of them in extent, and a quintupling of the amount spent on them, from £13 million this year to nearly £65 million in 1994.

Over two and a half million acres of England will be covered by arrangements under which farmers who continue to manage and enhance traditional countryside features, such as heather moorland, chalk grassland or watermeadows, are paid sums, ranging from £10 to £300 an acre, reflecting the profit they have forgone by refraining from intensive farming methods. More than 3,100 farmers are already taking part. Four new ESAs are also proposed to go with the two in Wales, two more with the two in Northern Ireland, and an as yet unspecified number to go with the five in Scotland.

Mr Gummer told a press conference yesterday that the expansion represented an enormous change in the scheme, in which, he said, Britain led the world. His enthusiasm was shared by environmentalists.

Six of the new English ESAs will be designated in 1992. They are: Exmoor, the area of the Hampshire Avon, the north Dorset and south Wiltshire downs, the northwest Kent coast, the southwest Peak District and the Lake District. The remaining six, to be designated in 1993, are: Dartmoor, the Costwolds, the Blackdown Hills on the Devon and Somerset border, the tributaries of the Upper Thames, the Essex coast, and the Shropshire hills. The precise areas have yet to be delineated, but Mr Gummer said they would more than treble the extent of the present ten ESAs, which is about 840,000 acres.

The proposed new ESAs for Wales are Anglesey, the Clwydian hills, Radnor and Preseli. New areas are proposed in Northern Ireland for Co Antrim (including Rathlin Island) and Fermanagh.

Winter licked: animals and snow decorate the first of a seasonal series of stamps, on sale from January

Stones roll on in £30m deal

By JAMIE DETTMER

RICHARD Branson, chairman of the Virgin Group, went to dinner on Tuesday night and it may have cost him £30 million. A high price, you may think, but not if you are buying the men who wrote *Jumpin' Jack Flash*, *Little Red Rooster* and *Satisfaction*.

At a time when their musical contemporaries are either dead from overdoses or winding down a bit and thinking of quiet afternoons with the kids, Mick Jagger, aged 48, Keith Richards, 47, and Ronnie Wood, 44, signed the Rolling Stones to Virgin Records and promised to produce three albums by 1993. The £30 million deal also means that the entire back catalogue of the band's hits, now goes to Virgin.

The middle-aged millionaires concluded the deal at Mosimann's, the London restaurant. "We are looking forward to a successful relationship with Virgin," is all they would say.

Mr Branson was more forthcoming, even gushing. "The Rolling Stones are the greatest rock and roll band and I am honoured they have chosen Virgin Records," he said. "I first saw the group play as an 18-year-old in Hyde Park. I don't think for a moment that I believed that 20 years later they would still be breaking records all over the world and signing to our record company."

Polygram, the German record company, was Virgin's main rival for the band, whose contract with Sony, the world's biggest record label, has expired. The band, which started out in 1962 with a re-working of a Chuck Berry song, has had 37 top singles. The Stones's history has not been an easy one. Self-destructiveness, a characteristic common in the music business, frequently threatened to end the band's career.

A feud between Jagger and Richards was patched up in 1989, and the band went on tour in the United States, the first time they had been on stage together since 1981. Earlier this year, the Stones were widely attacked for releasing a single, "High Wire", that was critical of the Gulf war.

Perhaps the Stones recalled their song "The Last Time" when they signed with Virgin yesterday; "This could be the last time, maybe the last time, I don't know."

Gunman in siege surrenders

A gunman holding a policeman hostage at a northwest London health centre gave himself up last night.

The police constable had volunteered to replace a member of the public seized earlier by the gunman. Chief Inspector Michael West of Harrow police said that the man had been demanding to see the doctor who had treated his wife before she died of cancer. The siege, at Pinner, had lasted five hours.

Mr West said before the siege ended that one gun had already been taken from the man but he was thought still to have had another, as well as a large knife. "He made two demands. One was to speak to the lady GP who was treating his wife before she died of cancer. She has not come here."

The gunman's second request — to speak to Jill Palmer, health correspondent of the *Daily Mirror* — had been granted but she was not in the same room as the gunman and the PC, Mr West said.

Sub-standard

HMS Upholder, the first of the Royal Navy's latest diesel-powered submarines, is to be taken out of service for nearly a year to correct a fault which prevents the torpedo doors closing properly. Two more of the Upholder class boats will also be affected. The fault lay in the original design of the weapons system by the Admiralty Research Establishment, and will cost £10 million to put right.

RUC watchdog

An independent commissioner could be appointed to monitor complaints about police questioning of terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland, Lord Belstead, Minister for Security at Stormont, confirmed. The plan will be resisted by Unionists and some in the RUC but the Irish government is pressing for the scheme after allegations of ill-treatment at the RUC's Castlereagh centre.

Libel award

Jane Makim, sister of the Duchess of York, won substantial libel damages in the High Court yesterday over articles in *Today* newspaper and in the *News of the World* which suggested that she had indulged in sexually promiscuous behaviour. Both newspapers agreed to pay her undisclosed damages and legal costs. They apologised for the distress caused to her by the articles.

CORRECTION

We regret that in our report on Monday about Karyn Smith, jailed for drug smuggling in Thailand, we incorrectly stated that her family's lawyer, Stephen Jakobi, claimed to have been given a royal guarantee of a pardon. We also stated incorrectly that Thai legal representatives had threatened to drop her case, or had made conditions for continuing with it.

Captors played on envoy's compassion to trick him into dropping guard, says Sutherland

US hostages were 'lure to trap Waite'

From Ian Murray in Wiesbaden

ISLAMIC Jihad exploited Terry Waite's compassion to trick him into becoming a prisoner, according to Thomas Sutherland, the American agronomist freed with him. Mr Sutherland said that he and Terry Anderson, the journalist who is still in captivity, had been used as bait to lure Mr Waite.

During an hour-long news conference in Wiesbaden, Germany, yesterday, Mr Sutherland said that he heard the full story during the year they lived and slept in a darkened room, chained to a wall side by side. "He snores awfully loudly," he complained cheerfully before telling the story.

"I am convinced from our long discussions that he came to try to get us hostages out and for no other reason. He made contact with Islamic Jihad and they said that we were ill. He told them that, if that was so, then he would come and see us.

"We weren't ill at all. We just wanted to go home, but he didn't know that. They took him somewhere and persuaded him to drop his bodyguard before he could see us. He did that and then they kept him — and they kept him the next day and the day after, and he got out just the other day."

Mr Sutherland said that he was quite convinced there was no truth at all in stories that Mr Waite had been a secret agent of any kind.

Mr Sutherland had been a prisoner for more than 18 months before Terry Waite was captured, but he managed yesterday to find compassion for his captors, and to make an impassioned plea for the release of the hundreds of Lebanese he said were unjustly held in prison, and to argue that peace would come quickly in the Middle East if Israel were to leave south Lebanon.

Mr Sutherland is due to fly home to the United States this morning, but is planning to return to Beirut to resume his job as an agricultural lecturer at the American University.

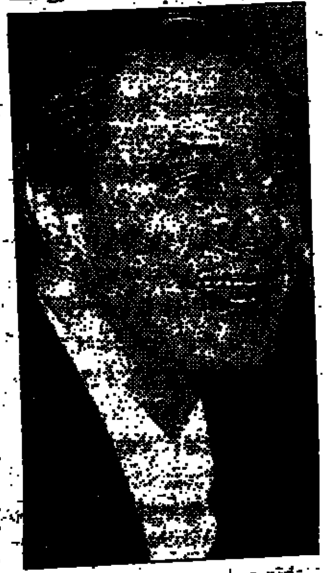
Many of his thoughts yesterday remained with Mr Anderson, "still lying on a floor, even if he is not chained to a wall any more. They figured with us gone, he is not dangerous any more." He was confident that all three remaining American hostages would be released soon.

"They have come to realise what Terry Anderson told them hundreds of times: that it is a heinous crime to chain a human being to a wall. Terry said he could not do that to another human being.

"They rationalised it by saying that this was the only way they could get the attention of the world. But diplomacy is the thing. Violence begets violence and seldom achieves its end. If Islamic Jihad is listening, I hope they will hear this plea and that they will give up violence for ever because it is not going to help."

He began his news conference by quoting Robert Burns's ode "To A Mouse", ending with the words "grief and pain for promised joy". Turning to his wife, two daughters and two brothers, he said: "My joy is complete today… I have had an almost delirously happy time for the past 24 hours. I can say it was almost worth waiting for, but it's been a heck of a long wait."

He described his capture, on June 9, 1985, as a mistake. He said that his captors had really wanted to seize the president of the university, but missed him at the airport. "They decided to take the next best thing, and that was me." From then on, he spent "23 hours and 50 minutes a day" chained up. "Last night I woke up in this king-sized bed and I said: 'Hey, where's the chain?'"



Sutherland: cheerful at Wiesbaden yesterday

He said he had been given "a bit of a biffing" once when he lifted his blindfold to see if there was a guard who would let him go to the lavatory. "They hit me on the soles of the feet until I started to scream and they screamed louder than I did, telling me to stop, and then they beat me somewhere else. They prayed ahead of it so they were already forgiven before they started. Otherwise, we were treated not badly."

He said that he understood the beating because he had broken rules he knew only too well. He had never thought that their lives were in danger. "I don't think they appreciate how heinous a thing it is to take a hostage. In many cases they were rather nice young men. They treated us considerately and, in the last year, we had consistent respect."

He said that, during his captivity, he had learnt tolerance and patience. "Islamic Jihad always said: 'Hurry up and wait.' Their sense of urgency at times doesn't correspond to mine."

Thanks to Mr Anderson, he said, he had also read hundreds of books. His fellow captive had nagged the guards for books until they eventually started to bring them. "Terry read so much faster than I did that he filtered them out for me and told me which to read. I was a half-educated animal breeder, but I am a better, more rounded man now."

He said that, for the past two and a half years, he had been able to listen to the radio "25 hours a day". This had mostly been tuned to the BBC World Service, and "that really made my life very tolerable". The radio had twice made him cry: once when he heard a request from his wife for a couple of his favourite records, and later when he heard, two weeks ago, that the basketball star "Magic" Johnson was suffering from Aids. "I just broke down and cried, which I never did when they beat me," he said.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Inspiration: Joy Brodier standing by the window in Bedford that was the subject of her postcard to Terry Waite

I just shouted, 'That's my card'

By John Shaw

THE 15p postcard of John Bunyan that brought light to Terry Waite's darkest hour in Beirut was an impromptu birthday card sent by a woman in Bedford.

Joy Brodier's impulsive gesture three years ago brought her instant fame yesterday at the family home in the heart of "Bunyan country".

In his speech immediately after landing in Britain on Tuesday, Mr Waite recalled how the card from a total stranger was his first contact with the outside world after four years in complete isolation in a darkened cell. He said that the card, showing Bunyan in jail writing *The Pilgrim's Progress*, lifted his spirits and underlined the value of writing to captives.

Mrs Brodier said she watched Mr Waite's speech on television with her young son. "I just shouted: 'That's my card, that's my card'. I could hardly believe it. I felt all squishy inside."

Mrs Brodier, aged 38, and her husband, Graham, aged 32, are Baptists. Mrs Brodier grew up in Lowestoft, Suffolk, and worked at a missionary school in Brazil on 1981. She has also worked for Christian charities, and wrote to Mr Waite after prayers for his release. His birthday was on the family calendar. She addressed the card simply to: Terry Waite, c/o Hezbollah Party of God, Beirut, Lebanon. It went with a 22p stamp. "I thought it must be worth a try just for 22p," she said.

"I thought the picture would speak to him as much as the simple message. John Bunyan was in prison in Bedford for his faith and, through his imprisonment, came his great work, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Pilgrim went through the Slough of Despond and was imprisoned in Doubting Castle, and would have felt all the emotions Terry would be going through, so I thought the picture would slip in another message as well as the words," Mrs Brodier says.

Neither she nor her husband could recall exactly what she wrote on the back. The gesture "was one of those Christian things", Mr Brodier said. "In thinking about the person and mentioning him in our prayers, we noticed from the calendar that it was coming up to his birthday and so Joy sent him a card.

"It's astonishing to think that one card got through when they had not given him any other communication for four years. It was long before he had a radio and it meant such a difference."

● John McCarthy's life as a hostage is to be immortalised in a stained glass window at the village church in Broxted, Essex, where his mother is buried. A second window will be dedicated to all the other hostages including Terry Waite, Tom Sutherland, Jackie Mann and Brian Keenan.

Donations for the windows should be sent to: The Hostages Windows Appeal, PO Box 1636, Dunmow, Essex CM6 2DE. It is hoped that the windowswill be completed by the end of next summer.

Modern Times, page 9
Philip Howard, page 18

Freedom is a view of Wiltshire hills

By Lin Jenkins

TERRY Waite celebrated freedom yesterday by looking out of a window after years of darkness and isolation.

From the suite in the officers' mess at RAF Lyneham he could see the undulating Wiltshire hills bathed in bright autumn sunshine. He had too the other simple things he had envied Bunyan in his captivity: table and chair, writing materials and his own clothes.

Indeed, well-wishers sent, along with 1,000 letters and parcels, three pairs of size 14 shoes for the church envoy who had been released wearing ill-fitting slippers. He also had some variety to the meagre and monotonous diet which had been handed to him while chained in his cell, as the RAF laid on a colourful spread with a cold meat buffet.

Having stayed up late with his wife Frances and their children Ruth and Claire, both aged 26, Gillian, aged 25, and Mark, aged 20, Mr Waite still rose early to continue to indulge in the unfamiliar luxury of talking and listening as the family caught up on five missing years. A CD player and cassette player were taken to his two-bedroom suite with recordings of classical music, including some of his favourite composer Schubert.

Group Captain Ian Corbitt, the station commander, said: "Terry has been touched and is very grateful for the avalanche of mail which has already arrived here at RAF Lyneham. He wishes to take things gradually and hopes people will understand if he does not himself make regular press statements or give any interviews."

A medical team of six under Wing Commander Gordon Turnbull began a series of medical and psychological tests which are likely to take three days.

It is thought that Mr Waite has not lost too much weight. Attention was being paid yesterday to his teeth, which are known to have caused problems, and his eyes, which may have been damaged by the incessant darkness.

Leading article, page 19

Opinions of 105 agents on prices realised compared with three months ago. Percentage of agents reporting each category.

	Higher	Static	Lower
National	1.00	59.0	40.0
Pre-1919 terrace	-	61.9	38.1
Inter war semi-detached	-	63.8	36.2
Inter war detached	-	59.0	41.0
Post war semi-detached	-	60.0	40.0
Post war detached	2.90	55.2	41.9
New houses	0.65	59.8	39.5
Average			
South-East	-	28.6	71.4
Pre-1919 terrace	-	33.3	66.7
Inter war semi-detached	-	33.3	66.7
Inter war detached	-	28.6	71.4
Post war semi-detached	-	28.6	71.4
Post war detached	-	23.8	76.2
New houses	-	29.3	70.6
Average			

Autumn hike to house prices fails to take off

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

HOPES of an autumn boost to the housing market have suffered a setback with a report that prices are static for much of England and Wales and still falling in parts of the South-East.

In the latest house price survey from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, published today, seven out of ten estate agents in the South-East report that prices have fallen in the three months to the end of October — contradicting evidence that the slump has bottomed out — while the others say that prices are unchanged. Nationally, prices are static among six out of ten agents, and lower among the remainder.

Across the Midlands and East Anglia, the market is "quiet and nervous", with interest rate cuts insufficient to counteract the effects of unemployment and political uncertainty.

Meanwhile, the National Association of Estate Agents, in its latest market trends survey, argues that interest is unlikely to pick up until after the general election and says there is worse to come.

More than nine out of ten of the 140 agents taking part in the survey reported that unemployment worries remained the main reason for the continuing recession.

Defence witnesses given £100 a day to tell jury lies

By A Staff Reporter

A POLICE enquiry into the biggest known conspiracy to pervert the course of justice has ended with the convictions of 26 crown court witnesses.

Judge Crabtree told the ringleaders: "To say you have poisoned the well of justice is inadequate."

In a nationwide conspiracy, all had been recruited as defence witnesses for John Walsh, an antiques dealer accused of handling more than £1.25 million of stolen valuables. During his six-month trial at Leeds crown court, which ended in March 1989, 100 people gave evidence in his defence but many had been approached by the Walsh family and asked or paid to lie to get him freed.

The reward for saying that they had sold him property that had been stolen in violent country house robberies was £100 per day in court. The conspiracy failed and Walsh, aged 47, of Staintondale, North Yorkshire, was jailed for seven years.

However, Judge Myerson, QC, was so disturbed by what he had heard that he ordered a police enquiry. Two and a half years later, after hundreds of interviews and at a cost of £2 million the full extent of the plot was revealed.

Since January a series of trials, prosecuted by Peter Collier, has taken place at Newcastle upon Tyne crown court involving members of the Walsh family and witnesses from the Leeds trial. A blanket reporting ban was lifted yesterday after the last person had been dealt with.

Judge Crabtree had earlier sentenced Walsh to a further three years for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and ordered him to pay £40,000 costs.

In all 18 people have been jailed at Newcastle crown court for attempting to pervert the course of justice, including Alan Ramage, a former Derby County footballer and Yorkshire fast bowler, who got six months. The rest received non-custodial sentences for conspiracy or perjury.

Det Supt Ian Peacock, who led the investigation, said afterwards: "There are a lot of victims in this case, from the victims of the original robberies to the false witnesses who lost their businesses and reputations for a few hundred pounds or a favour."

Nouveau wine trend is looking passé

By Robin Young

TODAY, the third Thursday in November, is a red letter day for wine lovers. The release of this year's Beaujolais Nouveau, officially timed for midnight last night, is rather less eagerly awaited, though, than it has been for some years past.

That is because word has got around that this year's wines are more than usually tannic, suggesting that they are less likely to have the supple, youthful charms that topers seek.

The newly merged Majestic and Wizard Wine Warehouse operations, bellwethers of vinous trendiness in the past, have announced that they will not be stocking any Beaujolais Nouveau this year. Some pubs and wine bars have also sought to curry favour with those who adopt a snooty attitude to the wild antics and hype which the new wine has engendered in the past by announcing that they will be "nouveau-free zones".

They may be cutting off their noses to spite their faces, since quick sales of Beaujolais Nouveau, traditionally snapped up in its first few days on the shelves and largely drunk by Christmas, have to be good for cash flow, which many wine companies in the recent recession have notably been lacking.

The Victoria Wine Company, which declined to carry an own-label nouveau last year on price grounds, has relented and is again importing an exclusivity, priced at £3.99. "Sales have been declining in recent years," said Victoria's wine marketing manager, Thomas Woolrych. "But it is still a big thing, and on the day you have to have it because everybody wants some."

Contrary to fears engendered by the late spring frosts, many companies have succeeded in finding plenty of Beaujolais to sell at under £3 a bottle. Most of the supermarket chains will be offering the wine at £2.99. Sainsbury confirmed yesterday that it was importing as much Beaujolais Nouveau this year as last year.

The Times wine correspondent, Jane MacQuitty, is this morning tasting all the Beaujolais Nouveaux being imported in large quantity to Britain. Her review of the wines, and recommendations for the best buys, will be in *Weekend Times* on Saturday.

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If you would like to meet us in order to find out what we can offer, contact us at the address below.

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The products from our factory are accepted by many major companies.

Unfortunately, our workers aren't.

At first glance, there is little to distinguish our factory from any other productive workshop.

There's the usual buzz of activity. The familiar drone of machinery and naturally, the odd wisecrack from the foreman walking the shop floor.

But look again more closely and you might notice something that's unique to our operation.

Every member of our workforce is blind or visually impaired.

If you find this fact hard to believe, that's precisely the reason we are taking this space.

At Action for Blind People, we are constantly striving to break down people's misconceptions of what it means to be blind. If that entails setting up an entire factory, then so be it.

Since 1857, Action for Blind People have run a factory which today is producing P.V.C. stationery for major companies like Barclays, Esso and British Rail.

It's real work that as well as offering a high quality product, gives blind people a sense of being a useful and active member of society.

Sadly, elsewhere, it is often the case that blind people aren't even considered when they apply for a job vacancy. Which can be a sorry waste of readily available talent.

Photo: Courtesy of John Higginson

Blindness in no way prevents a person from being articulate, intelligent or hard-working.

Many blind people are highly qualified or have gained valuable experience in previous jobs. In fact, in the vast majority of cases, blindness doesn't mean they have no useful sight at all.

Utilising their capabilities and abilities isn't a matter of showing pity. Just sound business sense.

To back up what we preach, we've put it into practice at our own factory. For instance, we've moved Moi Wong, a visually impaired employee, from the shop floor to an office job involving far more responsibility. It's her task to deal directly with prospective clients and drum up business for our products.

Obviously, we needed to invest in specialised equipment to assist her. But aren't employees in any field given specific equipment, if their employer believes their talents warrant it?

Of course they are. And Moi, or any other blind person, should be no exception to this rule.

We would like to see more blind and visually impaired people in every line of employment offered similar chances to prove themselves.

To actively try and change the present situation, we have appointed two Employment Development Officers, both of whom are blind.

As a result, we now provide training for long term unemployed blind people, as well as advice and awareness training for employers.

And we work hand in glove with other organisations, in the disability field for example, to generate sponsored places in higher education for blind students.

Places specifically tailored to train them for the needs of major employers.

We've come a long way from our origins of 1857. Now we'd like to see other people's attitudes do the same.

As our name suggests, our foremost priority is to promote action in all areas where blind people are concerned. And we try to do so with the minimum of red tape and bureaucracy.

If you'd like further information, or have a blind friend or relative who is in need of any kind of help, don't hesitate to ring us on 071 732 8771 and ask for Rachel Tripp.

And please remember, we rely totally on your support to continue our work. So any donations you care to give will be gratefully received.

However, for blind and partially sighted people to continue working there's something we need more desperately than money.

Employers with vision.

Blindness is the least of our problems

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Switch from national bargaining

Nurses told pay to be tied to performance

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS intend to introduce performance-related pay for 500,000 nurses and midwives from April 1993 in a further move away from national pay rates.

Senior health department officials met representatives from the nurses' pay review body last week to press the government's case for extending local pay flexibility to cover more than half the health service workforce. Preliminary soundings have also been taken with the staff side with the aim of drawing up a joint agreement, priced by the review body, to come into effect in 18 months.

The plan will also cover 34,000 professionals allied to medicine, such as physiotherapists and chiropodists, who have their pay determined by the same pay review body.

Under the department's self-financing plan, all staff concerned would get a basic annual pay rise, still set by the pay review body. An additional £1 billion, just under 20 per cent of the nurses' pay bill, would be allocated by local managers in bonus payments.

Money now spent on unsocial hours payments and "lead payments" for nurses working in the geriatric and psychiatric fields would be gradually redistributed to fund the new scheme, according to health officials.

At present, nurses earn an additional £8.80 for working a night shift, £12.05 for working at the weekend and £15.35 for a public holiday. They are also paid extra for working on call in unsocial hours. Nurses working with the mentally ill receive an extra £385 a year, while those working with the elderly get £165 extra. Both those payments are expected to be frozen from April 1993. London allowances, worth between £1,205 to £1,700, may also be reviewed under the scheme.

It is still unclear what criteria managers would be expected to use to reward performance, although it is understood payments could be linked to nurses accepting more flexible arrangements on wards. That could include more flexible rostering of duties with three separate eight-hour shifts.

Managers can also use the extra funds to reflect local labour market conditions where there are recruitment difficulties. In addition, nurses might get extra payments for reducing post-operative infection and more effective pain control.

Only managers, who make up less than 1 per cent of the health service workforce, have bonus payments related to performance at present. The 57 health service trusts already have the right to set their own pay rates for all staff although few have done so. Guy's Trust broke the mould last week by allocating an extra £5 a week for 1,400 low paid staff.

Two years ago, the government introduced a limited pilot scheme to test local pay flexibility for nurses linked to recruitment and retention, but not performance. Health officials argued last year that even modest supplements helped recruitment difficulties, but health service unions countered that flexible pay supplements caused resentment and damaged morale and would lead to spiralling pay rises in some parts of the country.

The pilot scheme was part of a drive by Kenneth Clarke, then health secretary, to move away from national pay bargaining. Merit money to top managers was extended to 7,000 middle managers in 1988 and during discussions on the white paper for health service reforms Mr Clarke was adamant that trusts would be able to set their own pay rates.

Eric Caines, NHS personnel director, has called for greater pay flexibility and has recently forecast a dwindling role for national pay bodies. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, has insisted however that the nurses' pay review body is not under threat.

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Health, page 15

Airlines seek cut in illegal entry fine

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

AIRLINES are pressing the government to cut the fine imposed for bringing passengers into Britain with incorrect papers.

A standing committee of MPs will today consider objections by carriers to the recent doubling of fines from £1,000 to £2,000 a passenger, which is costing British Airways more than £250,000 a month.

Protests from airlines flying into Britain have received support from MPs of all parties, largely because the increase was imposed by statutory instrument without any debate. Now the standing committee on statutory instruments will be asked to approve or disapprove the increases and hopes are rising among airlines that the committee will demand that the decision is overturned.

Among examples given to MPs is that of an American passenger whose flight from New York to Copenhagen was diverted to Glasgow with engine trouble. As there were no facilities at the airport the passengers were transferred to a hotel to wait while the aircraft was repaired, but the passenger did not have a visa to enter Britain. The airline was fined for bringing him into the country illegally.

In common with countries throughout the developed world, Britain is tightening immigration controls in an attempt to stem the flood — and according to airlines and shipping companies they are being made the scapegoats. Günter Eser, director general of the International Air Transport Association, which represents 200 airlines, said: "The airlines are already tax collectors for governments. Now it looks as though we are becoming immigration officers." So far this year airlines have been fined a total of £14.5 million by Britain alone. Most of that has still not been paid. Many airlines have simply ignored the fines, claiming that the vast majority of "illegal" passengers are the result of genuine mistakes or deliberate evasions over which they have no control.

British Airways, which has paid the £6.5 million it has been charged, has run a long and bitter campaign against the fines. Lord King of Wartnaby, its chairman, said in the House of Lords recently that the law allowing the fines was "an unprincipled and pernicious piece of legislation which is incompatible with our parliamentary traditions of civilised procedure?"

The Home Office maintains that the fines, introduced in 1987, are essential if airlines are to be made more accountable for the passengers they carry.

King: "Unprincipled and pernicious law"

Emerald smugglers 'killed drugs baron'

COLOMBIAN emerald smugglers killed Roy Adkins, a London drugs baron, just six months after he had ordered the murder of Charlie Wilson, one of the Great Train Robbers, an inquest was told yesterday.

Adkins, aged 36, was gunned down as he sat in a hotel bar in Amsterdam. He had ordered Wilson's murder because he believed the former train robber had given permission for him to be named as a drugs gang boss in a trial in London, the inquest was told.

A senior police officer and a customs official told the hearing at Westminster coroner's court that there was no evidence to support either theory, but Det Supt Alec Edwards of Scotland Yard told Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner, that Adkins's death in September last year — six months after Wilson, aged 57, was shot at his Spanish villa — was drugs-related.

Dr Knapman recorded a verdict of unlawful killing on Adkins. He had recorded the same verdict on Wilson the day before. Mr Edwards said he had liaised with Dutch police investigating Adkins's death. "There is much speculation and some evidence to suggest that this may have been linked with the death of Charlie Wilson," he said.

Adkins and Wilson knew each other and the murder was drugs-related: "The connection with the killing of Wilson is Adkins was the ringleader of a gang ordering the killing of Wilson," he said.

But he added: "There is no evidence to suggest that friends of Wilson took revenge and killed Adkins."

David Sterling, a customs officer, said a defendant in another drugs trial had said Adkins might have died at the hands of Colombian emerald smugglers, angered by the theft of a consignment of the stones.

Mr Sterling said Sean O'Neil last month told a £10 million cocaine-smuggling trial at Isleworth crown court, west London, that Adkins was a middleman for Colombian emerald-smugglers. Mr O'Neil was acquitted of importing drugs.

Salvaged Scotch for sale

By Alan Bennett

MORE than 350 different whiskies, including a 60-year-old Macallan and others salvaged from a shipwreck, are to be auctioned by Christie's in a sale devoted entirely to whisky in their Glasgow salerooms next week.

The Macallan, distilled in 1926 and bottled in 1986, is one of only 12 produced and is expected to fetch more than £7,000. The bottle is housed in a brass-bound glass tantalus and its label was designed by the pop artist Peter Blake.

Three extremely rare bottles recovered from the wreck of the Firth of Cromarty, which sank in 1898, are estimated to fetch more than £1,700. The diver, Peter Miller from Stranraer, brought them up in 1974 after locating the wreck three years earlier. Martin Green, Christie's whisky specialist, said: "The bottles are in remarkable condition considering the length of time spent under water." They include a bottle of Johnnie Walker (estimated to fetch £600 plus), a bottle of Whyte and MacKay (£600 plus), and a House of Commons Finest Old Highland (£500 plus), all distilled circa 1880-90.

A private collection from Renfrewshire includes a rare bottle of Glen Grant, a 59-year-old distilled in 1891 (about £2,000); Curiosity, a 44-year-old Lowland Malt distilled in 1864 (£500-£800) and a Lagavulin, a 30-year-old distilled in 1881 (up to £2,000). They belong to a couple who bought 10 bottles for a small sum in 1985.

A bottle of Dallas Dhu, a 64-year-old Highland single malt, is estimated to fetch £3,000-£5,000. The Dallas Dhu distillery in Forres, Morayshire, was built in 1899. In the early 1980s, production ceased whilst trading as Scottish Malt Distilleries.

Mr Green said: "The sale provides a unique opportunity for the discerning collector to view a rare accumulation of 19th and early 20th-century single malt and blended whiskies, forming an important part of Scotland's heritage. The whisky collectors' market is growing, with greater interest being shown by those throughout the UK and from overseas."

ADRIAN BROOKS

Cool to be kind: a coat made from gold sycamore leaf making its debut for the annual fashion show by the anti-fur group Lynx at the London Hippodrome on Sunday

Larkins to return in ITV winter season

ITV announced its £130 million winter season yesterday, featuring six new series and the return of 10 others, including *The Darling Buds of May*.

Detective series are also prominent, with Michael Gambon playing Maigret, David Suchet as Hercule Poirot, Barry Foster as Van der Valk, John Thaw as Inspector Morse and Mark McManus as Taggart.

Nigel Havers and Keith Barron are in *The Good Guys*, about two characters with a knack of attracting trouble, and Jason Connery plays a young South Seas doctor in *The Other Side of Paradise*. Ralph Fiennes plays T.E. Lawrence in *A Dangerous Man — Lawrence After Arabia*. Denholm Elliott and Rita Tushingham co-star in *Sunday Pursuit*, a love story directed by Mai Zetterling.

The Cloning of Joanna May, a dramatised version of Fay Weldon's novel, stars Patricia Hodge and Brian Cox and, later in the season, an original Fay Weldon drama, *Growing Rich*, features Martin Kemp, of the pop group Spandau Ballet, as the devil.

Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie return as Jeeves and Wooster, and John Alderton and Pauline Collins feature in a new series of *Forever Green*. Other comedy programmes will include *El CID*, with John Bird, and *Men Behaving Badly*, a situation comedy with Harry Enfield as a worksby womaniser.

Television, page 23

Pindown social worker loses job

A THIRD senior officer in Staffordshire's social services department at the time of the "pindown" scandal has lost her job.

Elizabeth Brennan, a principal child protection officer, has had her services terminated from November 30 "in the interests of the efficient discharge of the council's functions". Two deputy directors of the department have already had their contracts terminated.

The county council was criticised this year after an enquiry into the use in Staffordshire children's homes of the pindown regime, under which children were kept in solitary confinement.

Police pay out

Thames Valley police agreed in an out-of-court settlement to pay £2,000 compensation to each of 11 hunt saboteurs who claimed they had been wrongfully arrested.

Disease alert

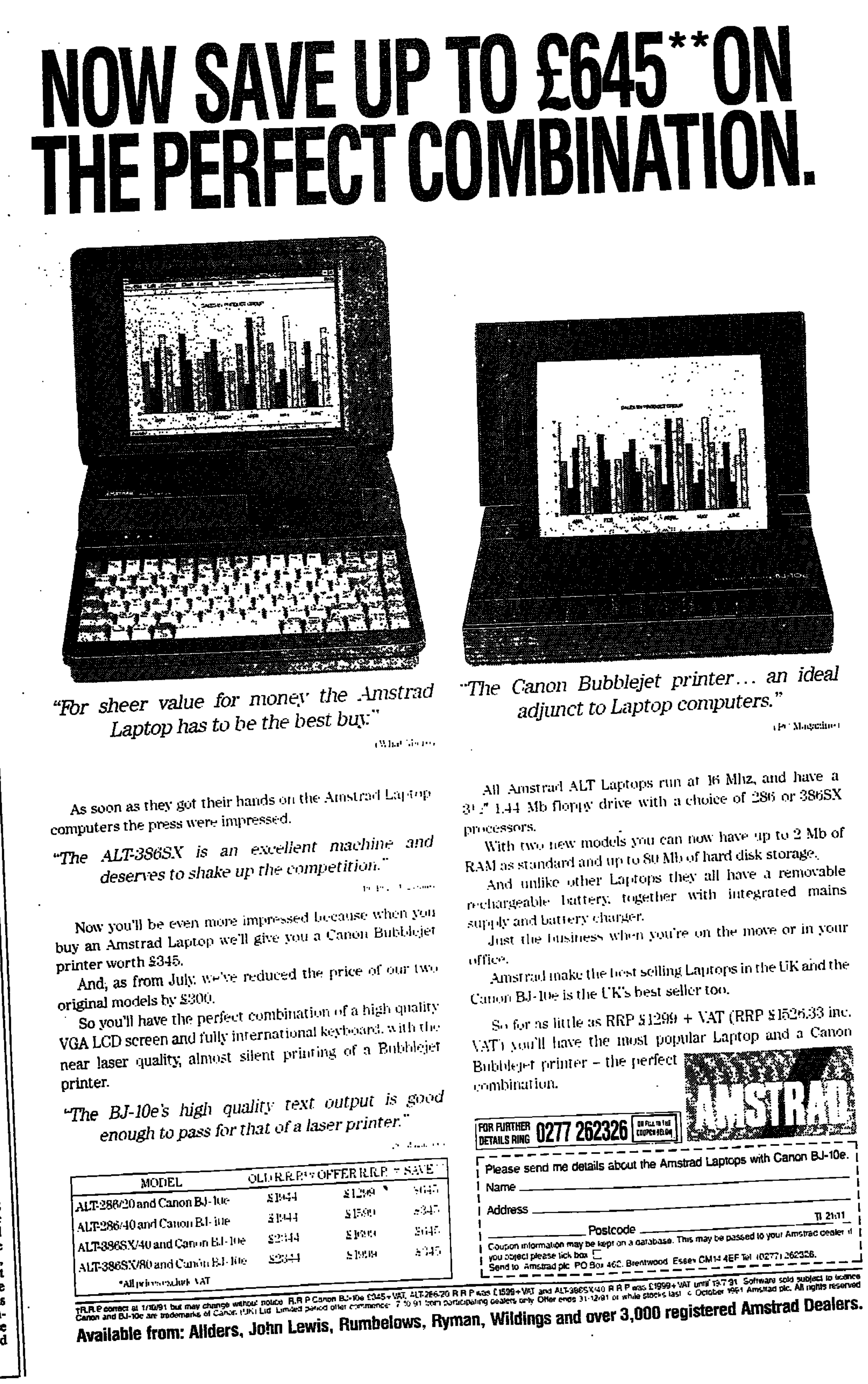
A woman aged 41 has died at Walton hospital, Liverpool, after contracting legionnaires' disease. Other patients at the hospital are being monitored.

Photos seized

Customs officers at Heathrow have seized nude photographs of the American actress Kim Basinger that were being sent to *Penthouse* magazine.

Stolen car death

A man died when the stolen car he was driving crashed in Norwood, southeast London, early yesterday, police said.



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Thatcher demands a referendum on single currency

John Major and Margaret Thatcher collided in the Europe debate: she is seeking a referendum on monetary union, he is firmly opposed

MARGARET Thatcher called yesterday for a referendum on a single currency in the event of the main political parties ever agreeing to abandon the pound sterling.

In a passionate speech during the first day of the two-day Commons debate on Europe, she backed the move because, she said, the electorate would have no choice on the issue in a general election. The former prime minister told MPs: "I have come to the conclusion we should let the people speak."

The debate was opened by **John Major**, who warned members of the European Community about possible misconceptions some of them may have.

Mr Major said that some Community members believed that Britain would argue hard against many of the Maastricht proposals, object to them and protest, but that Britain would sign up to whatever on offer at the fifty-ninth minute of the eleventh hour. "I urge them not to make that misjudgement."

The government wanted to reach an agreement at Maastricht and was negotiating for one. There was still some way to go and he hoped that the negotiations would be successful. "But it may be that a deal is genuinely unobtainable.

"If we do not reach an agreement, it will not be a catastophe for the Community, but it will be a setback. So it must not be through misunderstanding, or misjudgement and certainly not through bad faith."

He outlined the advantages to Britain of belonging to the EC and said: "There are, in truth, only three ways of dealing with the Community. We can leave it and no doubt we would survive. But we would be diminished in influence and in prosperity. Or we can stay in grudgingly, in which case others will lead it. Or we can play a leading role in it. That is the right policy. It does not mean accepting every idea that is marketed with a European label. It does mean trying to build the sort of Europe we believe in."

The texts on monetary and political union produced earlier in the yaer and rejected by Britain had caused much alarm.

Mr Major added: "The treaty now before us envisages the realisation of economic and monetary union through the creation of a single Euroepam currency to replace the historic currencies and a European bank to manage monetary policy."

In stage one, the single market and the single financial area would be completed. The second stage proposed a European monetary institute, essentially the present meeting of European central bankers under another name. Its task would be to strengthen co-operation and promote the co-ordination of monetary policy. In stage two, the ecu would be developed and hardened. During that period monetary policy would remain in the hands of member states.

The text envisaged that before the end of 1996 member states would take stock, in Ecofin and at the European Council, and reach a decision on "whether to move to the final stage of economic and monetary union". A crucial element would be the economic convergence of member states. Britain was the first to argue that convergence was vital before monetary union could become a possibility.

The last text set out convergence criteria on inflation, interest rates and successful membership of the narrow band of the exchange-rate mechanism and the avoidance of excessive budget deficits.

The council of ministers would decide who had met the conditions and the European council would decide unanimously whether or not the conditions were right for a move to stage three. "We believe that there should be at least eight member states ready to move to stage three before that step could be taken."

The prime minister added: "Our insistance that there should be no imposition of a single currency is well known: by that we mean that we cannot commit ourselves now to entry at a later date as a result of the treaty.

"We are therefore insisting that there must be provision in the treaty giving us the right quite separately from any European Council decision to decide for ourselves whether or not to move to stage three. That decision can only be taken by this House.

"This means that even if the requisite majority of member states decide to embrace a full economic and monetary union with a single currency and a single central bank, Britain will not be obliged to do so. Whether to join, not just when to join, will be matters of separate decision by government and Parliament. Nothing in any treaty I sign will bind us now to the decision we must take then.

"Nothing in the treaty I sign now will bind us then because at this stage we cannot know what the circumstances then will be and whether it will be in the economic interests of this country to take part."

Moving to areas where Britain parted company from other members on stage three, Mr Major said that the Dutch draft treaty provided the Ecofin council with sanctions to require members to reduce their budget deficits. Britain believed that there was no better sanction than the market.

Some MPs believed that the creation of a single currency and a European central bank should *be blocked now. They believed* that if it was not, the pressures on Britain to join later would be irresistible. Technically Britain could block the adoption of an economic and monetary union treaty in its present form — as an amendment to the Treaty of Rome. What it could not do was prevent some or all other members making a separate treaty outside the Rome treaty.

"Those who believe that they would not do so are in my view mistaken, as mistaken as those who said that without Britain the original European Community would neve happen, or that if it did happen it would amount to nothing.

"I fear I do not agree with those members who take that view. I believe that they are wrong and potentially damagingly wrong for the long-term interests of this country.

"I do not therefore believe it would be right to block the treaty on Emu provided that it contains conditions which could make such a union a success. Nor is it necessary to do so to safeguard our own interests. For the text gives this country the crucial provision we need which means that we can decide at a time of our own choosing whether to join or not.

"If the economic convergence conditions set out in the draft treaty are not met, we would certainly not wish to be part of an economic and monetary union with a single currency. *But if they are met*; our successors may wish to take a different view. A single currency could be the means of safeguarding anti-inflationary policies for the whole of the Community. That would be a great prize. But there would be a price to pay.

"The price is that it would take from national governments the control of monetary policy. That would be a very significant political and economic step for *this country to take. We cannot* take that step now.

"But nor should we exclude it. What we have in front of us is not what has been described as an opt-out clause. It is a clause we have secured enabling us to opt in, if we wish, when we wish and in conditions we judge to be right. We should keep open that option and not foreclose it at this time."

Major: looks forward to successful negotiations

Turning to political union, Mr Major said that for many Community partners, the definitions were not as important as for Britain.

Britain was not prepared to accept wholesale changes in the nature of the Community which would lead it towards an unacceptable dominance over our national life. To most people in this country, the notion of a federal Europe led over time to a European government and parliament with full legislative powers, to which national governments and parliaments would be subordinate.

"I do not believe that is a road down which the country would wish to go. We will not therefore accept a treaty which describes the Community as having a federal vocation. Such a Community will not succeed."

On foreign policy co-operation, he said: "In most areas, it would be in our interest to work for joint action, but we cannot allow that search for joint action to inhibit our right to take separate national decisions essential for the pursuit of our foreign policy."

He said that the government saw great difficulties in the proposal that majority voting should be used for implementing decisions. That seemed to be a recipe for muddle and confusion.

On defence, he said that Britain could not accept a situation where the Community effectively set up a competing structure with Nato and the Western European Union.

He called for the European parliament to have a greater role in auditing the expenditure of the Community and to approve the appointment of the Commission. "There is a tendency in the Community to want to legislate for everything. That tendency must be curbed." There must be limits on the areas where Community law applied. "Whether a town bypass goes to the east or to the west has nothing whatsoever to do with cross-frontier pollution or competition policy or any other aspect of the single market. Those are issues which should rightly be settled at national level.

"For an agreement to be reached at Maastricht there will have to be give and take on all sides."

The Community had been the motor force of Europe's postwar development. The aim, from the beginning, had been to achieve the far-reaching goals of democracy, prosperity and stability in Europe by down-to-earth means of a single market in goods and service.

The Community was still the motor force for Europe's development, but there was more at stake in Maastricht than the legal text. There, they would shape the future of the Community in ways that accommodated the wider European changes.

They could now plan for a Community stretching north to the Baltic and east to the Urals, embracing the free market principles at the heart of the Treaty of Rome. That could not only guarantee prosperity but would also underpin democracy, ending centuries of mistrust suspicion and war. "It would secure a lasting peace across the whole of our continent. I believe it is a Europe worth building, worth making sacrifices for. That is the Europe for which I shall be arguing at Maastricht."

Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, said that the question was whether Britain would be dragged along in the wake of the changes or be the driving force for change. It was essential that our country took a lead. The people knew that that was the only way to exercise decisive influence.

The need for an active and positive approach to changing policy was well understood by governments in the rest of the Community. "They recognise the reality of the economic interdependence which now exists and which will be intensified by completion of the single market and as a result are determined to build on that interdependence by moving towards economic and monetary union. They are clear about their objectives. They know what they want. As so often in the past, our government is stuck in defensive mud."

It was not good enough for Britain to have a government playing for a draw and it had become clear from Mr Major's speech that that was precisely his aim. The government must stop trying to persuade itself or the country that there was some sort of semi-detached arrangement that could be made, that would serve Britain's best interests. There was no such arrangement.

Even before there was an immediate prospect of monetary union, it had to be recognised how vulnerable Britain was if the government's strategy was to avoid commitment to the processes under way in the Community. If the British government continued, as a matter of policy, to stand apart from those processes, would inward investors wanting access to the Community market, think of locating in Britain?

Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) asked whether Mr Kinnock could give an example of an important issue on which, since 1970, he had not changed his mind.

Mr Kinnock: Yes. He and I came in on the same day. I formed the view then that he was a jerk. I still have that view.

The remark led to several *minutes of uproar and Conservative* protests. Mr Kinnock said that if he had offended, he withdrew any offence.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, asked if Mr Kinnock would be prepared to go to Maastricht and make an irrevocable commitment to a single currency.

Mr Kinnock replied that his commitment to seeing that the Commons had a proper decision to make in any stage of development of the EC was at least equal to Mr Lamont's. There was no question of any Community government not referring to its parliament for a mandate before entering monetary union, the opt-out clause simply codified what would happen in any case.

Kinnock: Britain must not play for a draw

"But if that clause was taken to be a definition of this government's position and repeatedly referred to as an escape route, then it would fundamentally undermine confidence in the government's commitment to the European process. It would be a deterrent to investment, a disincentive to industrial development.

Mr Kinnock said that the government should be negotiating for location of the European monetary institute and and a subsequent central bank in London, but had never even raised the question.

The true definition of convergence was of crucial importance to monetary union. Monetary union and the single currency could work successfully only if there was convergence of the real economy which included growth and employment as well

Continued on facing page

Tebbit takes over the campaign

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Tebbit yesterday put himself at the head of the Conservative campaign for a referendum on the future of the European Community, an issue on which the Commons is to be *denied a vote* when the debate ends tonight.

MPs from all three main parties tabled amendments for the debate calling for a referendum before the economic and political union treaties to be discussed at Maastricht are adopted.

However, the question was covered neither in the government motion nor the official Labour amendment, the only one selected by the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, for a division.

Fourteen Tory MPs headed by Mr Tebbit backed a referendum amendment despite John Major's clear rejection of it this week. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, yesterday renewed his call for a referendum and his party's amendment makes a call for one in its reference to the need for the real voice of the people to be heard. Left-wing Labour MPs backed an amendment by Tony Benn, the former cabinet minister, saying that none of the constitutional changes should come into effect until they have been endorsed in a referendum.

The government motion invites the House to endorse its "constructive negotiating approach" running up to *Maastricht, says that it is in* Britain's interests to be at the heart of Europe shaping its future, and calls for an agreement that avoids a federal outcome, enables the British Parliament to decide at a later date whether to adopt a single currency, restricts the extension of Community competence to those areas that cannot be handled better nationally, and increases the accountability of the European Commission.

The Labour amendment attacks the government's negotiating approach which it says has been determined by its preoccupation with divisions in the Tory party, supports the social charter, calls for extension of majority voting to social and environmental matters, and urges policies for high levels of employment, growth and balanced regional development necessary to achieve real economic convergence in the years leading to economic union and a single currency.

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Britain must take the lead in Europe, Kinnock tells House

Continued from facing page

as inflation and interest rates. Nobody could be satisfied with a situation in which the British and German economies might be coming together when the German had been growing at 3 per cent each year and the British economy was in recession and shrinking by 2.5 per cent.

Mr Kinnock said that the Chancellor was saying "wait and see" on convergence when no other country in the Community was doing that. Other countries were saying they would get the economic strength and obtain the convergence. Britain had to catch up.

The problem for Britain was that it had a government that did not follow the policies needed for economic strength. Economic policies that the rest of the Community regarded as conventional duties this government regarded as anathema.

The result was severe recession with falling manufacturing output, falling investment and negative growth for the second time in ten years. It was small wonder that of 940,000 people who lost their jobs in the Community this year, 768,000 — 80 per cent — of the new unemployment was in Britain.

That was not convergence. It was divergence of the worst kind.

Not content with letting Britain's economic performance fall behind, the government wanted this country's social provision to fall behind as well. The other 11 governments all accepted the social charter and the extension of qualified majority voting. They all took the view that there would have to be guaranteed minimum conditions of employment, so that countries with high standards were not undercut by countries with low standards. Only Britain refused to guarantee its people the same minimum rights.

"Not content with relegating the British economy to the second division in Europe, the government wants the British people to have only second-class rights in Europe," Mr Kinnock said. "A government that deliberately stands in the way of basic employment rights for millions of people cannot claim to be standing up for Britain and it cannot claim to be at the 'heart of Europe'," he added.

The Commission did have great powers that were not going to be reclaimed by governments and parliaments. That was all the more reason to make changes to address the resulting democratic deficit by ensuring that the Commission was held to account more effectively.

Mr Kinnock said that it was important to foster changes being made in the new democracies of Eastern and central Europe. There should be a gradual development of associate membership and then full membership for such countries.

A more democratic Europe now had more potential than ever before. "That is why we put forward policies to promote efficiency and growth, opportunity and social justice. They are all essential components in the development of a Europe which is not only a market for its producers, but a genuine community for its people. Developing that market, building that community: that is the future for Britain in Europe," Mr Kinnock said.

Ashdown: no difficulty with monetary union

Margaret Thatcher said that she would be supporting the government in the division tonight. She recognised that Mr Major had difficult negotiations in Maastricht and needed the support of the House.

He had already said that there were some proposals that were unacceptable to the government and he had pointed out which they were. "His task will be to remove those proposals before he comes back to this House. In my day it would have required the occasional use of the handbag. Now it will be at least a cricket bat and that's a good thing because it will be hard."

Mr Kinnock's speech showed that he had made up his mind that he was going to accept a single currency. He had made up his mind on the argument that if others had it we must have it. "That is an argument for a flock of sheep."

The fundamental issue at Maastricht was a draft treaty that proposed an enormous and, to her mind, unacceptable transfer of responsibility from the Commons, which was clearly accountable to the British people, to the European Community institutions, which clearly were not.

Because of Britain's history and traditions, defence and foreign policy could not be decided by majority voting. She was grateful to the prime minister for making that clear because there was something that the foreign secretary had said at The Hague which suggested that there might be majority voting in certain cases. "I read it and I analysed it and I thought he was going a bit wobbly."

Britain's history of negotiations with the European Community showed that assurances were given about the limits of competence and then those limits were broken and the Community came back with a new set of demands for increased power for the Commission. "That is the conveyor belt to federalism and that conveyor belt will not be stopped just be removing the word federal from the treaty."

She said that most of the British people did not want to hand more substantial powers to the Community.

She described economic and monetary union as the most dangerous of all. "Being in charge of one's own economic policy goes to the heart of our democracy and our Parliament. Give that up and you have given up your capacity to make the main policies for which we are here and which affect the lives of our nation."

People *should* judge the performance of the economy which would be the battle ground for the general election. It would be ironic if candidates argued about the economy and in the next breath explained that these powers would be passed away to the Community.

"Money bills and general economic policy are the exclusive responsibility of this House and we are not entitled to give away this responsibilities or to give away the people's rights which is what a single currency would mean.

"Nor do I believe a single currency would be in Britain's interests". Convergence conditions for a single currency were "totally unrealistic". She doubted if they were achievable for many countries in the Community.

"But it is dangerous to assume that because the conditions are difficult at the moment, that they will stay the same. It is quite possible that the Community will change them while still keeping the goal of a single currency."

Mrs Thatcher also feared constant "surveillance" by the Commission in respect of Britain's budget deficit and she added of the treaty opt-out clause: "My concern is how effective it would be in practice, bearing in mind that even if we were to exercise that power, we are still required to sign up to the goal of a single currency and the institutions designed to prepare the way to it."

She asked: "How easy would it really be in practice to resist the pressures to go further? We do not want to be told that because we have agreed to take part in the earlier stages of Emu ... we have no real choice left but to accept a single currency. That looks to me as if it was the design of that whole particular draft proposal."

Mrs Thatcher said that in November 1989 there had been almost universal opposition in the Commons to the whole Delors concept of monetray union and a single currency. Since then, there had been a "colossal inexplicable change", particularly among Labour MPs who seemed prepared to give up the parliamentary supremacy that was at the heart of the constitution.

She said that it would be better for those who wanted a single currency to have a separate agreement outside the Treaty of Rome.

If ever there was agreement between the parties to abandon the right to issue the pound sterling, the people would have no choice at election time on that enormously important point. There would be no way they could make their views known through the ballot box on this "major, fundamental constitutional issue". Their only alternative would be to vote for extremist parties.

That was a question to which Mr Major, who believed in choice, and his front bench colleagues must address themselves. Constitutional issues warranted a referendum. She had come to the conclusion that "we should let the people speak". Otherwise the parties would be depriving them and future generations, of their right.

Mrs Thatcher acknowledged that such a move might not be popular with some members of her party, but she added: "We should retain the parliamentary supremacy. We should not make a massive transfer of powers to the Community which is not accountable to our electorate.

"I believe therefore we should not join a single currency."

Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said that the government had no clear vision for Europe, but simply wanted to bob along like a cork on the water, pushed this way and that by the the prevailing tide of the moment.

By leaving things so late and by entering the present negotiations so reluctantly, both parties had done mortal damage to the country's interest.

He congratulated Mr Major on moving a long way since the summer, and added that he would sign up at Maastricht, for he knew that there was no alternative.

He congratulated Labour too, for coming a long way, but they had changed their minds twice in every decade since the Sixties and were not so much on the road to Damascus as on yet another circular trip round the M25.

"We have no difficulty with monetary union. It is after all, the natural and logical extension of the single market to which this government has already committed Britain. But we do not underestimate the difficulties which monetary union will bring." Britain would either have a difficult period of convergence before union or a painful period of adjustment after.

Maastricht would set the terms within which Europe would begin to establish a common foreign and defence policy. As integration evolved, Europe's voice in world affairs would grow, and with it the need for Europe to speak with a single voice.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, fisheries and food; prime minister. Conclusion of debate on European Community.

Lords (3): Further and higher education bill, second reading.

MARC ASPLAND

In the swim: Joan Walley, Anthony Coombs and Simon Burns, three of the MPs who are preparing for next Monday's Lords vs Commons charity swim to raise funds for Northern Ireland children through the Women Caring Trust

Politicians and actors unite in support of an ideal

HERCULE Poirot will be there. So will Edward Heath, fresh from his trouncing at the Oxford Union at the hands of Norman Tebbit (Jamie Dettmer writes). Will the former prime minister enquire of the famous French detective about the best way of doing away with his Tory rival and any others in the Conservative party who continue to oppose the march of history into European union?

The opening of Britain's first European centre tonight by, among others. Mr Heath and M Poirot, alias Peter Ustinov, the actor who played the detective in the film *Murder on the Orient Express*, is unlikely to end in foul play. All 150 or so prominent politicians, academics and celebrities due to attend the opening are united in their support of the European ideal.

The location of the centre, home of the all-party European Movement, in Buckingham Palace Road, central London, is appropriate. It is just a stone's throw from the coach and railway stations at Victoria, both of which have served as jump-off points for many a young Briton's adventures on the Continent. The streets around the stations are full of back-packing, be-jeaned Europeans keen to do their bit for cultural exchange.

Those inside the centre tonight will also be interested in federalism. The European Movement, which has about 6,000 members, is a strong supporter of federalism.

"Our raison d'être is to push for European union and to encourage a debate," Peter Luff, the movement's director, said. "There is no place in London where people can meet and discuss the issues." Mr Luff hopes that the centre will become such a place and that members of the public will use it to find out more about the European Community. "One of the reasons for the deep uncertainty of the British people about Europe", Mr Luff said, "is that the government has not given them enough information."

Tonight, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the former SDP leader and former EC president, will toast the centre with other politicians by drinking this year's Beaujolais nouveau.

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British Gas

FEELING SICK ABOUT THE HEALTH SERVICE AND PARIAH SMOKERS .... BOOM TIME FOR BELLRINGERS .... MORALS AND HYPOCRISY IN AMERICA

Long love affair with NHS damaged by diagnosis of decline

Tony Dawe reports on a survey of attitudes that confirms health as the central issue in the coming election

A MARKED increase in dissatisfaction with the health service is the most dramatic finding of the latest survey of *British Social Attitudes* published today, emphasising that the NHS will be the central issue in the next general election.

The survey, acknowledged as a comprehensive guide to changing values, reports that almost half the nation is quite or very dissatisfied with the running of the NHS, compared with only a quarter when the survey began eight years ago.

The long wait many endure for operations or to see a consultant attract the brunt of the criticism, but a majority want to see an improvement in all aspects of hospital services. Respondents want more nurses, more doctors, more efficient casualty departments and better buildings. Many want a better service when attending out-patient clinics, and a third believe that the quality of medical treatment in hospitals needs improvement.

"This is a huge rise in dissatisfaction and explains why the Labour party has been concentrating on the state of the health service," Roger Jowell, director of Social and Community Planning Research, which conducted the survey, said. "But it shows the Tories have also been doing their research, for a lot of the criticisms are addressed in the citizen's charter on health. If it works and is convincing, then it will clearly find favour with the electorate".

In contrast with views of the nation's hospitals, only a quarter of those interviewed called for an improved deal from their GPs.

The survey poses the question that growing dissatisfaction with the NHS might eventually reduce public allegiance to the service and diminish resistance to future privatisation policies, but it can find no proof for such a thesis.

Almost all the 3,000 people interviewed for the 1991-2 edition of the survey insist that health care should definitely be the government's responsibility and a majority want more spent on it, even if it means higher taxes.

As many as 38 per cent said they would like to see "much more" government spending on health, a higher priority than for any other service. Pensions and education were the two other areas to receive significant support for much more money.

When the survey broke down its findings into party allegiances it discovered that, while the majority of Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters favour increased spending and higher taxes, only 42 per cent of Conservative voters agreed. While concern about the NHS has increased among all social groups, it remains less prevalent among Conservative voters. However, the better-off are more critical of the service than elderly and working-class people, perhaps, suggest the authors of the survey, because of a difference in expectations.

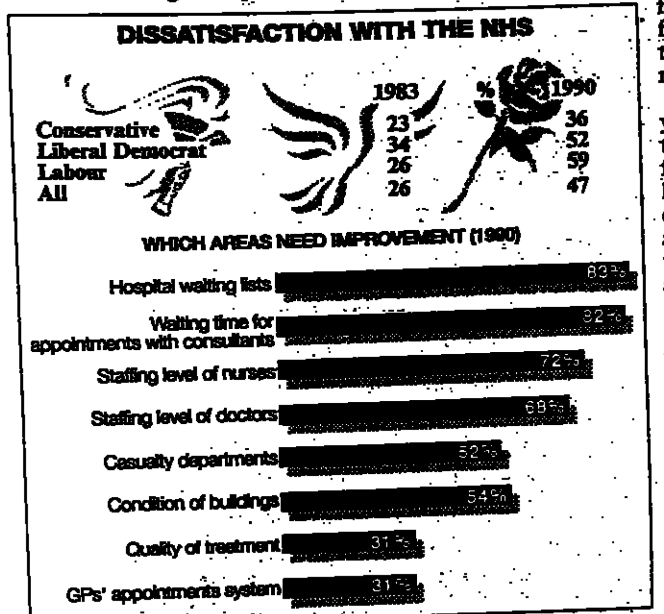
The survey finds that support for an improved NHS is strong, even among those who can afford private medicine. "There is very little demand for exit from the NHS, even from those for whom departure to the private sector is a realistic option," it says.

It points out that the 40-year tradition of the state as the dominant agency in welfare provision has been challenged during the 1980s by cuts, by the privatisation of ancillary services and by demands for greater financial accountability.

It concludes, however, that far from seeing a dwindling of support for health and welfare spending, the decade has seen the strengthening of public backing for a centralised, tax-financed health service.

British Social Attitudes, 8th report (Dartmouth Publishing Company; £19.95)

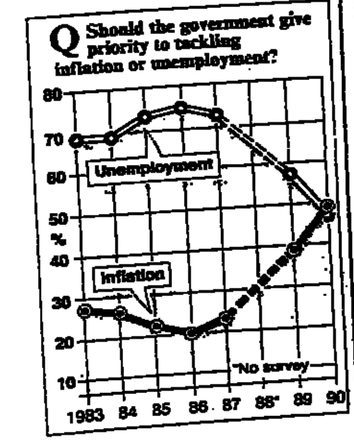
Health, page 15
Leading article, page 19



Inflation ranks as main foe

The government's economic policy receives a vote of confidence in the survey, with most people saying that keeping down inflation rather than unemployment is the top priority. When the survey began in 1983, only one in four rated inflation as the most important problem.

The self-employed, pensioners and Conservatives were the most likely to name inflation as the top priority. The jobless, and most supporters of the other main parties, picked unemployment.



Nuclear fears

There is mounting concern over threats to the environment, and about nuclear power. Half the public believe that damage to the environment will be the biggest single problem facing Europe within the next 20 years. Three out of four fear that nuclear power stations pose serious risks.

Army pull-out

Most people favour the reunification of Ireland and the withdrawal of British troops, although they acknowledge that this would lead to more bloodshed in the short-term. In Northern Ireland, only one in four favours reunification and one in three backs troop withdrawals, most of them Roman Catholics.

Affairs 'wrong'

Extra-marital sex continues to earn mass disapproval, with 85 per cent saying it is always or mostly wrong. A small majority believe that sex before marriage is rarely or never wrong. There is a slight increase this year in the number saying that homosexual relations are always or mostly wrong.

Smokers get up nation's nose

SMOKERS have become the new pariahs of British society, according to the latest *Social Attitudes* survey, which reports widespread support for smoking bans in public places and even for active government discrimination against those indulging in the habit.

A majority believe that "most people look down on smokers" and support much higher taxes on cigarettes. Three out of four say that life insurance premiums for smokers should be increased and one out of four is in favour of NHS hospitals giving smokers low priority for heart or lung operations.

A significant majority want smoking banned in hospitals, cinemas and restaurants, and smoking bans in the workplace are also gaining favour, with a third supporting them. The pub seems to be the only public place where smoking is still largely acceptable.

Roger Jowell, director of Social and Community Planning Research, which carried out the survey, said: "We were surprised by the intensity of people's censoriousness about smoking."

The reasons are twofold: a clearer perception that other people's cigarette smoke can damage you and the fact that smokers are in a minority.

The survey asked: "Suppose a non-smoker lives or works closely with a heavy smoker, how risky is it for the non-smoker?" Three out of four regarded the health risk as serious with one out of four saying that it was very serious.

Lighting up: more young women are smoking

For the first time, the survey has discovered that former smokers outnumber smokers: 42 per cent have never smoked, 28 per cent are ex-smokers and only 27 per cent smoke. Middle-aged men are the heaviest smokers but there is a marked upward trend among women aged 18 to 34. The survey suggests that smoking may soon become more prevalent among women in Britain than men.

It also finds, however, that most smokers say they are likely to try to give up within the next couple of years.

The survey concludes: "As smoking becomes less common and people become more aware of the hazards of passive smoke, attitudes towards smoking may continue to harden and this may help the reluctant smoker to finally give up."

On the one hand, we like civil liberties...

BRITAIN is a nation of "fainthearted libertarians", *British Social Attitudes* concludes after its first study of our views on civil liberties.

On the one hand, we support more open government, are tolerant of public protest meetings, even those staged by revolutionaries, and are wary of giving the police more intrusive powers. On the other hand, a majority believe the government should have the power to stop publication of leaked defence plans and welcomes the installation of video cameras in public places to deter hooligans and identify erring motorists.

The ambivalence is reflected by our views on compulsory identity cards, with people evenly split for and against their introduction and one in five having no opinion either way. The survey suggests that our lack of concern about certain rights and freedoms might leave civil libertarians despondent.

We do possess some clear views, however, seeing civil servants as servants of the public rather than servants of a government. Many believe that the administration of justice is affected by a person's colour and economic circumstances. Fewer than one in ten favours relaxing immigration controls. Two out of three are against an unreserved welcome for political refugees.

MICHAEL POWELL

As deadly as the male: Tina Parker offers a softer option to some of the heavyweight hardmen auditioning for the part of the executioner in *Turandot* at the Royal Opera House yesterday (Joe Joseph writes). The advert in *The Stage* ("preferably 16 stone or over, bodybuilders would be suitable") did invite both men and women, since the Royal Opera House is an equal opportunities employer, but nobody was really expecting Ms Parker when she walked into Covent Garden. Even she was a bit jolted. "I only discovered today that the executioner has to go topless," she said. "They were calling for women and they were calling for heavyweight people. Weight has always been my problem, so I thought why not have a go, although I would be more interested in comedy." Ms Parker was the only woman among the 21 giants who auditioned for the role. The opera will be staged at Wembley Arena from December 29 as a Covent Garden co-production with the impresario Raymond Gubbay. It is the first time Mr Gubbay has tried opera. He decided that while bringing it to a wider audience might be laudable, the *Nessun Dorma* aria from *Turandot* would fill seats. Ms Parker? She made it to the final nine. They swished swords and menaced on demand. All, bar our heroine, stripped to the waist, at which point there was no contest for the mighty muscles of Mr Arnold, a Welshman from Dyfed who runs a health club, and who will become the first Covent Garden star with "Terry" tattoed on his forearm. Peter Reid, complete with 50-inch chest — "I'm a bodybuilder by hobby and an Oxford traffic policeman by profession" — is his understudy.

Victorian virtues make comeback

America is turning to history to save women from men, writes ***Charles Bremner*** *in New York*

IF SHE had been around this week, Queen Victoria would have approved of the morals of an America which seems to be reverting to a protective attitude towards women that it abandoned with gas-lights and the horse and carriage.

Bob Kerrey, a Democratic contender for the presidency, is under attack thanks to privately telling a joke about lesbians. The American Civil Liberties Union, a body which defends free speech, has denounced its Florida branch for opposing a law banning dirty jokes in the work place. Shipyard workers have been ordered to stop making vulgar remarks which might be heard by women. The Florida union branch took the side of the workers, but, says, the union in New York, the sanctity of women is more important than free speech.

Florida is, of course, also playing host to the trial of William Smith, an event which has turned into a showcase for the new morality. The Kennedy lawyers are basing their their defence on the argument that their client was the victim of the machinations of a shameless hussy. The forces of feminism are arrayed behind the prosecution argument that the woman was the innocent victim who naively accepted the invitation of a brutal bounder to come up for a tour of his etchings.

The Victorians would have called it unwanted seduction: now it is called "date rape", a phenomenon which has become something of a national obsession. Yesterday, a woman student at Harvard brought abomination on herself for pointing out that the politically correct doctrine casts women as delicate creatures just like the Victorians did. "Every time one Henry James character seizes the hand of another Henry James character, someone is calling it rape," said Katie Roiphe, whose anathema was voiced on the pages of *The New York Times*.

She has a point. The American College Health Association now advises its female students to "communicate your limits clearly. If someone starts to offend you, tell them firmly and early," reminiscent of an 1853 manners guide. And Pennsylvania state university removed a print of Goya's *Maja* from a lecture room because the reclining nude, which last offended in the 19th century, was deemed to constitute sexual harassment.

Ancient art has pulling power

Louise Hidalgo reports on the keenness and camaraderie of church bellringers

As bells across the country sounded to celebrate the release of Terry Waite, churches must have blessed the loyal band of bellringers who sustain one of Britain's oldest traditions.

In parish churches up and down the country, about 45,000 people each week practise their bellringing skills. This week many helped to sound the celebratory peal that rang out from about 500 churches in London alone to welcome Mr Waite's return.

At St Bride's, however, the church which more than any has become associated with concern for the hostages, there was no rush to gather together a band of campanologists when confirmation of the release of Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland came through on Monday. Shortly after 3.30pm, Cannon John Oates simply switched on the tape and a pre-recorded peal announced the news along Fleet Street and beyond. The church's bells, once among London's finest, were destroyed during the second world war.

Traditionalists such as the 1,000 members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the oldest and most famous ringing society, decry the use of church bell recordings. The society, which provides ringers for Westminster Abbey and St Paul's, would like to see the bells restored to St Bride's.

Cannon Oates is pragmatic. He cites the cost — about £150,000 — and the convenience of not relying on the goodwill and availability of bellringing volunteers.

Meanwhile, the art of bell ringing is enjoying a modest resurgence. About a third of Britain's churches boast a ring of bells, and more are overhauling their old ones or installing new.

The Central Council of Bellringers, which has about 70 amateur groups among its members, estimates that 10 per cent more people count bellringing among their pastimes than did a decade ago. "There are bellringers as young as ten and others well into their eighties," Cyril Watten, the secretary, says.

The growing band of bellringers, which counts among its number Baroness Cox, a deputy speaker in the House of Lords, breeds a form of freemasonry, according to Jacqueline King, of the Ladies' Guild, who has been ringing in her local church in Chepstow, Gwent, for the past 46 years.

"Every diocese has its own fraternity of bellringers and you know, as a ringer, that if you enter a church tower anywhere in the country you will be warmly welcomed."

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Day 11 LOCHMADDY enjoy the splendid scenery of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides.
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Day 13 FAIR ISLE lays claim to being the most isolated remaining settlement in the British Isles. Visit the Bird Observatory famous for its work in tracking migratory birds.
Day 14 SHETLAND ISLANDS from Lerwick visit Jarlsof and the remnants of settlements dating back some 3000 years.
Day 15 ABERDEEN drive along the Dee valley to the lovely Castle and Gardens of Crathes. Later visit Pitmedden.
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Delors gives MEPs mocking account of Britain's stance

From MICHAEL BINYON IN STRASBOURG

ONLY hours before the Commons debate on Europe, Jacques Delors, the European Commission's president, yesterday delivered a comprehensive rebuff to the British vision of Europe.

With withering sarcasm, he mocked the British concept of a community built solely on intergovernmental co-operation, saying this had never worked in the past and would not work in the future. He accused Britain of betraying the vision of the community's founding fathers, and remarked bitterly that the Maastricht treaties on political and monetary union might as well drop all references to federalism: they were now so emasculated that virtually no trace of the original federal goal remained in them.

Addressing the European parliament in its final debate on the two treaties before the Maastricht summit, M Delors asked whether it was possible to build a political union treaty solely on the basis of a free exchange zone and a few compensations for poorer countries. "The commission's reply is absolutely not, that is not possible."

Where, he asked, was the economic and social cohesion, the pillars of the community which, he insisted, were indispensable. "There is no example of a grouping of nations that has survived on the basis of intergovernmental co-operation," he said. "My fear is that in concentrating on the intergovernmental aspects of the treaty, because of precedence and the deals struck behind politicians' backs by bureaucrats, intergovernmental arrangements will pollute the community and in fact cause it to slip back."

He gave a passionate defence of a community role in social and industrial policy — issues anathema to Britain, which insists that Brussels has no role in these fields. He said that if the balance could not be maintained in the community's structures, the whole enterprise would fail. Despite the adoption of the social charter by 11 of the 12 EC members — Britain excepted — not a single peace of significant legislation had followed from it.

He acknowledged that a compromise had been reached on a common foreign and security policy, and that majority voting would apply only to its implementation, not its formation — a point that Britain has just conceded. But he made it clear he believed that this was only a first step, and that he has not given up hope of a fully integrated political union.

COUNTDOWN TO MAASTRICHT

"The community method remains, even if it cannot be applied immediately to foreign policy and justice and security issues." It remained "the guarantee of respect for the sovereignty of member states and the guarantee of efficiency".

In an emotional summing-up, reflecting the disappointment he feels over the compromises proposed for Maastricht, he said: "One should not play games with a great hope. One must not cheat when faced with the huge challenges of today's world."

To underline his contempt of these compromises, M Delors quoted the article suggested on common foreign policy — "the council believes that, as a general rule, the methods of achieving common action will be adopted by a qualified majority". What did this mean, he asked? Countries would discuss a problem, they would not agree but to start with they would discuss procedure. Would they in the end vote by qualified majority or not?

"But who can believe for a moment that the countries would not fight about procedure precisely because of their differences and to defend their points of view? Believe me, such a text was unworkable or would cause paralysis." M Delors' powerful speech appeared to be as much a warning to Britain that the more federalist members of the community and the commission were becoming increasingly disillusioned by the Dutch presidency's attempts to accommodate British objections to the treaties.

His cri de coeur reflects not only his personal frustration but also a warning that too much watering down of the texts could produce a counter reaction which could lead the federal enthusiasts to reject the whole package at Maastricht. His speech may cause some distress among his fellow commissioners, especially those who are keen to accommodate Britain and smooth John Major's path before Maastricht. The commission president clearly appeared yesterday to be rejecting compromise.

Letters, page 19

Debris from old skirmishes litters Maastricht battlefield

From GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE EC Maastricht summit is still just under three weeks away but the agenda is already looking like one of the most overloaded in the community's history.

At the two-day meeting on December 9 and 10, EC leaders must clinch deals which will allow them to sign a treaty on political and monetary union shortly afterwards. They will also discuss the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and the 19-state common market with nations of the European Free Trade Association.

Some issues on political and monetary union have already exhausted the skills of the lower-level negotiators and could extend or even derail the summit. The worst snags in the treaty negotiations are as follows:

☐ **Emu "opt-out" clause:** the draft treaty allows any state to pull out of single currency plans within six months after an EC summit has decided that a group of 6-8 states can move to the final stage of monetary union. Denmark wants another parliamentary vote at that final stage. Britain is signalling that the treaty wording need not refer specifically to the British parliament but only to the government.

☐ **Economic and social cohesion:** this refers to the request from the poorest southern EC states for more money from their richer northern neighbours. Only Spain is now insisting that new funds should be guaranteed by the treaty itself and its ministers are threatening to veto the treaty unless they obtain specific promises.

☐ **Majority voting and extensions of EC power:** Britain agreed in principle to give the European parliament a limited power of veto and a reunified Germany more seats. But Britain wants parliamentary veto possible on very few subjects and very little increase in majority voting in ministerial councils.

☐ **Foreign and defence policy:** Britain is edging towards accepting the idea of declaring EC "joint action" in defined areas, but is insisting on confining majority voting to details of policy implementation. In the last ten days, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has stopped ruling out majority voting totally, but wants an escape clause in the treaty to protect nations whose vital interests are threatened by joint policy. It now looks as though France will bow to the majority and accept that the defence policies of the EC and Nato should be complementary.

☐ **Home Office issues:** Britain wants crime-fighting, court liaison and immigration control decided by co-operation between governments. Germany wants all these policies progressively taken out of its hands by the EC.

☐ **Social charter:** Negotiation has stopped on this since Britain is in a minority of one in insisting that the EC should have no new powers and both sides are waiting for the other to back down.

☐ **The F-word and review clauses:** Britain will probably succeed in removing the "federal goal" inscribed at the start and end of the present draft treaty, but may not succeed in returning to the time-honoured aim of the "ever closer union of peoples". Some pro-federal governments will try to write provisions for a new treaty conference in 1996 dropping hints about further federalism.

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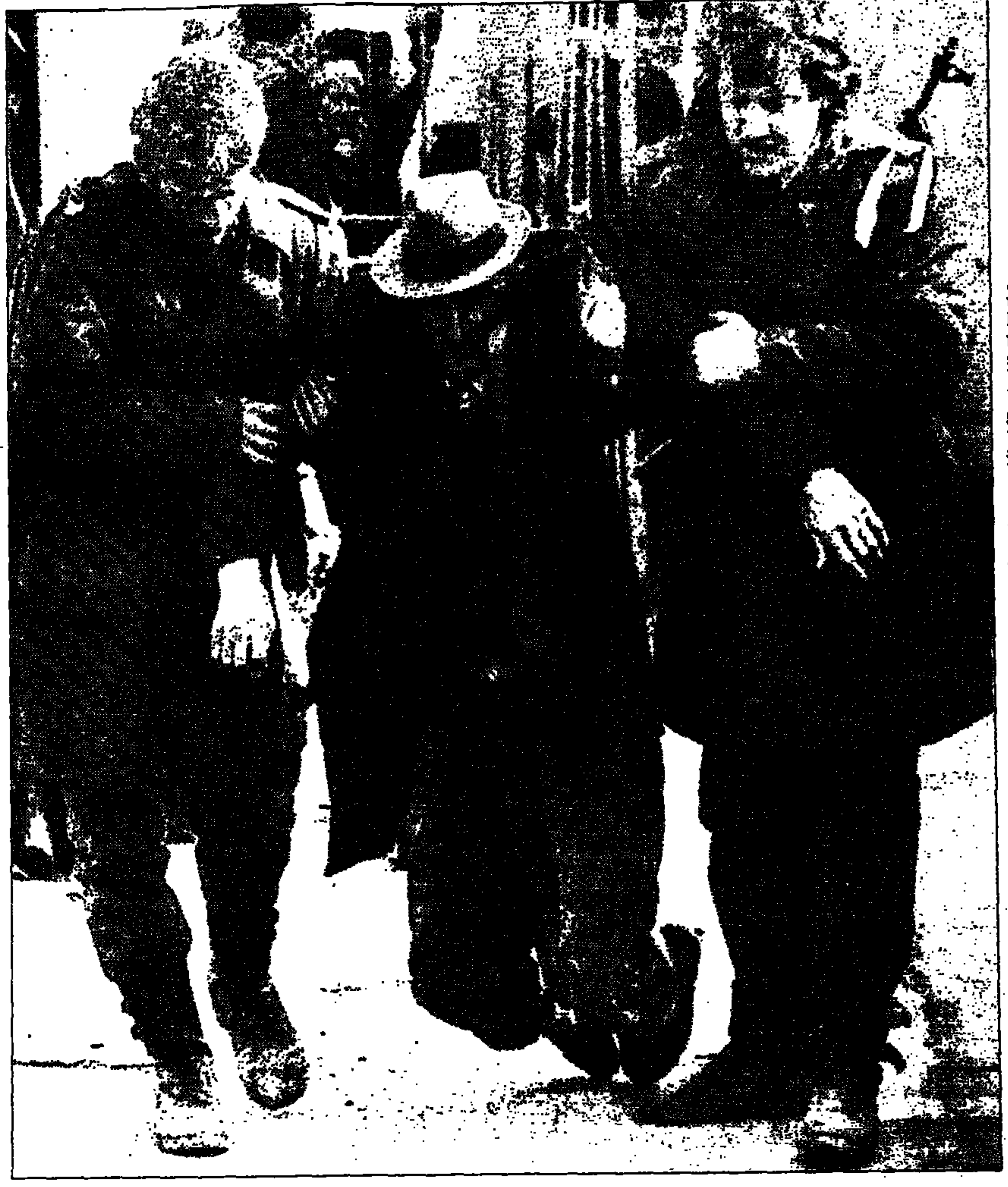
Serbs' advance tests political will of Western Europe



Support troops: Yugoslav army reservists helping an exhausted old man yesterday in Vukovar. He had been hiding in a cellar for three months in the besieged Croatian town, which fell to federal forces on Sunday

Belgrade forces set sights on Vinkovci

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the fall of Vukovar, the Yugoslav federal forces have turned their attention to another key Croatian stronghold, the city of Vinkovci. The battle for Vinkovci will pose the next great challenge, not only for the survival of Croatia but also for the credibility of Western Europe.

The protracted defence of Vukovar had as much to do with federal Yugoslav tactical ineptitude as it had to do with the courage of the Croat fighters. The Serb-dominated army, however, succeeded in achieving its goal without suffering heavy casualties, because it never attempted to mount a large-scale infantry attack.

The battle for Vinkovci, to the southwest, is likely to follow a similar pattern. But here, the federal army could find itself embroiled in a more bloody siege.

With the capture of Vukovar, the Serb-dominated forces control a slice of eastern Croatia along the boundary formed by the river Danube between Serbia and Croatia. Serb nationalists want to make Vukovar the capital of a greater Serbian region, and Vinkovci will be the next stepping stone in the overall strategy to clear a swathe of land west of the Danube.

The challenge to Western Europe is clear. Unable and unwilling to intervene militarily up to now, European governments have watched as Vukovar was destroyed. Their reluctance to become involved will reassure the federal army. When they turn their tanks towards Vinkovci, they will be able to do so with relative impunity.

Vinkovci, however, is better defended. The city has endured some bombing in the five-month conflict but while the Yugoslav army has focused its attention on Vukovar, the inhabitants of Vinkovci have been preparing for a long siege.

Jonathan Eyal, director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute in London, said they have had time to build up their supplies. Eighty per cent of the 90,000 population in Vinkovci are Croats, with only 13 per cent Serbs. Resistance to a siege will be fierce. "I don't think Vinkovci is doomed," he said.

The federal army, on the other hand, has only one real fear — military intervention by Europe. But if Europe continues its policy of "no peacemaking, only peacekeeping", the Yugoslav army can afford to take its time in adding Vinkovci to its list of victories.

Vukovar's fall fills Zagreb bars

Croatia's rulers are losing the battle for the hearts of the drinking classes, Anne McElvoy reports from Zagreb

SINCE the fall of Vukovar last Sunday, the bars of Zagreb have been even more crowded than usual with disconsolate drinkers, but it is debatable whether the quantities of plum brandy being consumed are to fuel defiance or quell despair. Two themes dominate the conversation: the iniquity of Serbs and the inefficiency of the Croatian government.

"Everyone is thinking about Vukovar, talking Vukovar, mourning for Vukovar," said Budomir Solic, an unshaven off-duty guardsman huddled in the old town's Blue Cafe. "But what does our government say? Nothing."

The defeat of the Danube town, dubbed "our Stalingrad" by the Croats for its three-month resistance, has increased the difficulties of the Zagreb government. Having extracted maximum sympathy value from the plight of the town during the siege, it has failed to find an apposite reaction to its loss, fumbling about to find alternative, less galling phrases for defeat, as if evasion could comfort a nation painfully aware that it is on the losing side as the Serb-led army gobbles up its territory.

In the depressing days since Sunday, Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, has not been seen in public. It would not have been that difficult to turn Vukovar's fate to political advantage: its defeat was, after all, scarcely an honourable victory for the army, since it took three months to achieve despite vast military superiority. But Dr Tudjman said nothing.

Until now, the government has profited in terms of stability from the war. The opposition has been quiet, and tight control of the media has done the rest in immobilising dissent.

But the ultra-right Party of Rights has been quick to seize the political offensive this week. The party sees the fate of Vukovar as a signal of the government's lack of effectiveness and has even suggested that Zagrev was prepared to sacrifice the city with an eye to future territorial swaps with Serbia.

Ante Dzapic, deputy leader of the party's militia, called yesterday for fresh elections, claiming that the government had forfeited the trust of the Croat people and that its defensive strategy was failing. Demanding an all-out offensive, he said: "We must take the war to the enemy, to Serbia. When there are hundreds of shells falling on Belgrade, we will see how cowardly they really are."

That is the bellicose opposition. But there is also a swell of dissatisfaction from the war-weary, who believe they were led into the conflict by an irresponsible and ill-prepared government.

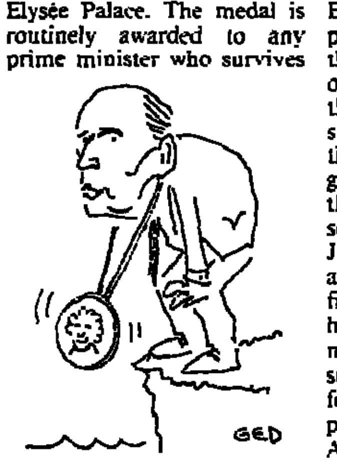
Croatia still has a will to fight, but Zdravko Tomac, the deputy prime minister, courageously broke the ranks of the silently embarrassed this week by admitting what a drained population already knows: "We failed to foresee this war. We hoped that independence could be reached by negotiation or maybe a limited defensive military action. We were wrong."

Cresson survives in trying times

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

SAY what you like about Edith Cresson, the French prime minister is a fighter, never more impressive than with her back against the wall.

It was fitting, then, that President Mitterrand, who thrust her into the firing line six months ago, should yesterday award her the Grand Croix de l'Ordre National du Mérite in a ceremony at the Elysée Palace. The medal is routinely awarded to any prime minister who survives six months in office, a term which, in living memory, was by no means assured. But M Mitterrand went out of his way to emphasise Mme Cresson's special qualifications, giving a glowing endorsement of the qualities which have so singly failed to win over the opinion of many voters.



"The most important reason for this award is the quality of what she has achieved in the past six months," M Mitterrand told a select audience. "Confronted with a situation that very few of her predecessors had to deal with, she has tackled each new problem in a calm and determined fashion . . . and I believe that only Edith Cresson could could have ensured that things were working so well."

For all the opinion polls making it clear that a vast majority of the French think otherwise — Mme Cresson's popularity rating has slumped to barely 25 per cent — the Elysée has never wavered, publicly at least, in support of the prime minister. It is fair to observe, however, that not all the Socialist notables are as supportive as their leader of this aggressive approach to governing the country. Among the audience at Mme Cresson's investiture were Pierre Joxe, the defence minister, and Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister, who both have their eyes on the Matignon: other cabinet worthies, such as Laurent Fabius, the former prime minister and present leader of the National Assembly, cannot be counted out of the running if Mme Cresson were to become too much of a political liability.

Nobody is more aware of this than Mme Cresson. To her credit, she maintains a brave and cheerful public face most of the time, robustly soaking up opposition punishment in the National Assembly. How long the support of the Elysée can be counted on is debatable: Mme Cresson's unpopularity has begun to spill over on to the president, and if there is one thing M Mitterrand worries about, it is his place in the history books.

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Shevardnadze to champion cause of peace

From OLIVER WATES IN MOSCOW

EDUARD Shevardnadze, returned reluctantly to shaping Soviet foreign policy, said yesterday he wanted to take his place on the barricades to preserve world peace. Commenting on his appointment by President Gorbachev, he told French Antenne 2 television that the danger of a return to totalitarianism in what he referred to as "the former Soviet Union" was even greater than it had been before the August coup.

"The threat exists firstly because the people who supported the totalitarian system still exist but also because of the aggravation of social conditions," he said. He was quoted by Interfax, the independent Soviet news agency, as saying: "In these conditions, I could not just watch from the sidelines. We must take our places on the barricades to save peace, because an unstable Soviet Union is the biggest threat to peace for the whole planet."

In another interview, with the daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, Mr Shevardnadze, a Georgian aged 63, was in equally sombre mood. "There is no reason for congratulations, or commiseration," he said. "The moment has come when the fate is being decided not just of our country, but of peace on our planet."

Mr Shevardnadze resigned last December in protest at the growing power of hardliners in Mr Gorbachev's government. His return was welcomed in the West, which credits him with a key role in ending the Cold War.

The job of Soviet foreign minister is scarcely an easy one. The Soviet Union, although still the world's second nuclear power, has continued to lose its authority among developing countries since December, and its economic and political difficulties have damaged its prestige. Furthermore, the 12 republican governments are keen to establish some form of independent foreign policy. Indeed, the Russian Federation has begun to flex its muscles on such questions as the Afghan civil war and relations with Japan and America.

Shevardnadze: a diplomat who inspires people

Interfax said Mr Shevardnadze gave his first priority as a visit to the republican capitals to discuss their new relationship with the centre. His international and domestic prestige will certainly strengthen the centre's hand.

Aleksandr Galkin, of the Political Forecasting Institute, said: "The process of division of functions between the [Soviet] Union and republican organs is not yet finished. There are many question marks.

"It is natural that the appearance of such a major personality as Shevardnadze should sharply strengthen the position of the Union foreign ministry. Shevardnadze is not only a powerful figure in international affairs but is also pretty influential in internal politics."

Vitali Churkin, appointed by Mr Shevardnadze last November as head of the information department of the foreign ministry, now renamed the Ministry of Foreign Relations, said the appointment would improve morale. "He is very good at motivating people, which is something we need very much," he said. "He is a charismatic diplomat who inspires people."

The State Council, the leading Soviet organ since the coup, last week approved plans put forward by Boris Pankin, the outgoing foreign minister, to reorganise the ministry. Staff will be cut by a third, to about 2,600, by the end of the year, several embassies and consulates will close and trade missions will be absorbed into embassies. The ministry will concentrate more on trade and economic matters. *(Reuter)*

Russian affair, page 18
Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Gorbachev appeals for boost in credits

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday made an appeal to the Soviet parliament to approve a multibillion-rouble increase in the national debt, warning of "catastrophe" and "collapse" if his plea was ignored.

Unhappy deputies, who had twice rejected demands from the exchequer for additional credits, listened restlessly and left a decision on the budget until later. The president's appearance before parliament seemed to be part of a brave, but probably vain, attempt to impose some personal and administrative authority.

The impact of the coup still reverberates. Yesterday Anatoli Lukyanov, the former Supreme Soviet chairman and once a Gorbachev ally, was interrogated in prison over his alleged role in August.

After addressing parliament, Mr Gorbachev left for Irkutsk in eastern Siberia. From there he will go on to the Central Asian republic of Kirghizia. This is his first trip inside the country since his ill-fated summer holiday and it may have the secondary aim of competing for domestic headlines with Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, who starts his three-day official visit to Germany today.

Mr Gorbachev's address yesterday was unusually defensive and lacked conviction. He itemised the projected 9 per cent fall in agricultural production, 7 per cent drop in industrial production, the 31 per cent decline in exports and the 42 per cent fall in exports. Stating this year's budget deficit was likely to reach 300 billion roubles (£300 billion at the exchange rate under communism), he concluded: "The chief reason for the deficit is the economic decline." Later, Ivan Silayev, the acting prime minister, said total revenue to the central exchequer this year was likely to reach only 113 billion roubles, less than half the planned figure of 250 billion.

After, it became known that the Russian government had just refused to agree to the emergency union budget proposed for the last quarter of the year, saying it was incompatible with its reform programme. The budget, which incorporates at least 90 billion roubles in state bank credits to the central government, was agreed by the governments of nine republics, and two reserved judgment. Russia's economic dominance means that its stand could be decisive. Deputies went away as disconsolate as they had arrived, convinced that it barely mattered whether they approved Mr Gorbachev's emergency budget or not.

***Coup quiz:* Anatoli Lukyanov being interrogated in a Moscow jail yesterday over his alleged role in the August takeover**

Runaway train kills 40

Tehuacan, Mexico — Rescuers pulled almost 40 bodies from wreckage caused by a goods train that left the rails and flattened cars and a bus after its crew abandoned it when the brakes failed.

Police said the heavily laden train, which may have reached speeds of 125mph before it crashed, destroyed seven houses. Children from a nearby school were among the dead and injured. *(Reuter)*

Swiss tremor

Chur — Switzerland was hit by its worst earthquake in 30 years yesterday, but the only serious casualty was the electricity supply to the Grisons canton, which was cut for about 30 minutes. The main shock measured between 5.0 and 5.5 on the Richter scale and was followed by seven smaller tremors. *(Reuter)*

Large scale

Moscow — Residents in [illegible] a remote Siberian village, have reported seeing a [illegible] snake with the [illegible] patrolling a local lake, Tass said. The reported monster has the girth of a [illegible] and is six or seven [illegible]. One villager managed to take a photograph [illegible] *(Reuter)*

WARSAW NOTEBOOK by Roger Boyes

Debts hold an army captive

The Polish army, once a key part of a fearsome Warsaw Pact force, is teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. Soldiers are on near-starvation rations — their food allowance is 60p a day — aircraft are grounded for lack of fuel, defence suppliers are clamouring for payment and tactical training has been suspended until further notice. "Frankly," declared a Western military attaché, "the Girl Guides could take this country over at any moment."

Budget cuts are the main reason for the rapid collapse of one of Europe's main land armies. The already scaled down defence budget was cut by a further 25 per cent and the ministry has been left to scrape around for cash to pay for even the most basic services.

First to suffer, as usual, have been the national servicemen who are currently paid £8 a month. The allocation for food is now only just above the amount earmarked for convicts and soldiers complain it is inedible. Most soldiers live in old barracks without hot water or heating. Sheets are rarely changed to save on laundry billls. The army medical service is short of staff, beds and drugs.

Little wonder then that the army is finding it difficult to drum up conscripts for even the shrivelled force of the 1990s. Opinion polls recently showed that 70 per cent of male students entered university solely to avoid army service.

As a military force, the Polish units — like their Hungarian and Czechoslovak comrades in arms — are looking drained and sickly. The Polish air force has slipped between 15 and 20 years behind the West in terms of aviation technology. Its most modern planes are Soviet MiG 29s — the same models that were so effectively shot down over Iraq.

The huge army debts — it owes money to everybody from regimental butchers to tank makers — have given rise to a new scam. Arms manufacturers have been waiting for months to be paid by the army and most have had to lay off workers. Private and state bankers have bought up the defence ministry debts and are poised to make big profits.

It works like this: the army owes a machine gun factory £1 million but cannot pay up, probably for years to come, if at all. The bankers buy the debt at a discount price of say £400,000, allowing the factory to pay its workers and stay afloat a little longer. But the army is now in hock to the bankers.

By the end of the year the army will have to pay the financiers, but the money will eventually have to come from the state treasury unless the army makes panic sales of its few remaining assets. Colonel Tadeusz Jedynasty, the army's deputy chief of technical supplies, says if this buyout continues, "the banks will have completely bought out the army".

The army needs a knight in shining armour to save it from insolvency. Unfortunately, it could not afford to pay for the horse.

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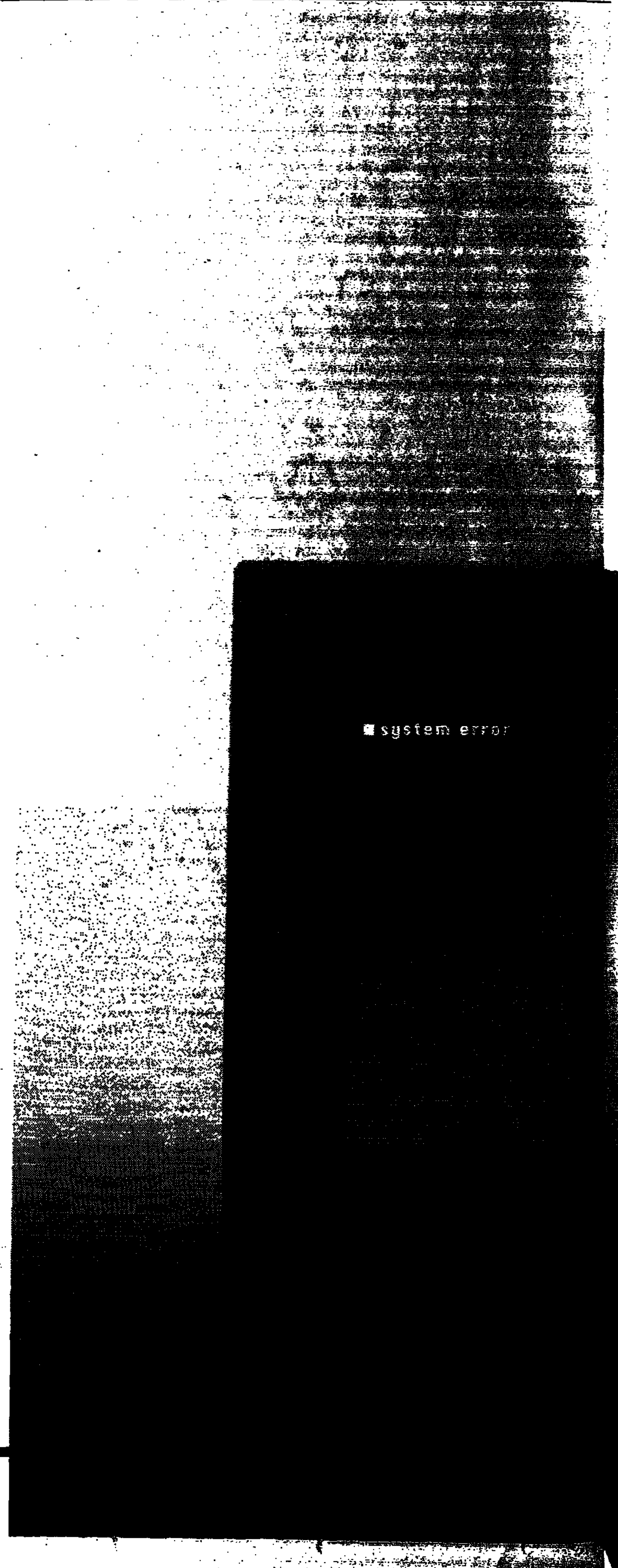


PEACE PROCESS

Egypt urges Europe role

From MICHAEL BINYON IN STRASBOURG

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt yesterday appealed to Europe to remain involved in the Middle East peace process and to foster democracy in the region by generous aid for development.

Addressing the European parliament here, he said the European Community's attendance at the Madrid peace conference had been important in maintaining pressure for a settlement. "I am confident that you shall continue to pursue your traditionally constructive role in the Mediterranean basin and in the Middle East," he said.

But Mr Mubarak challenged MEPs to increase development aid. He asked if it was enough to give less than 1 per cent of gross domestic product for foreign aid? Was it acceptable that the net flow of capital to the developing world had fallen by 50 per cent in the past eight years? How much longer could the global debt problem remain unresolved? He said there could be no democracy in the Middle East without development, and development would be possible only if trade barriers were removed. The Egyptian president also expressed doubts about the growing tendency to link aid to human rights and democracy. The method and pace of the implementation of human rights and democracy varied from country to country. He said that setting conditions could ultimately hinder progress.

He urged Europe to do more to prevent the accumulation of weapons in the Middle East, especially nuclear weapons, and called for support for Egypt's proposals for a nuclear-free zone in the region. President Mubarak also reassured Europe that the revival of Islam posed no threat to any nation. Islam was a creed of tolerance and co-existence.

"The manifestations of conflict and hate which you occasionally observe are alien to Islam, even if they are perpetrated in the name of this great religion," he said. Acts of despair and fanaticism were only a passing phase and the true face of Islam would overpower these aberrations.

Sweet refuge: an 18-month-old Haitian boy, his head bandaged after surgery, sucks a lollipop as American officials decided his fate and that of 2,600 boat people held on US Coast Guard cutters off Cuba after fleeing Haiti

Refugees from birth of Israel keep holy war dreams alive

In the Palestinian camps of Jordan, the Middle East talks fail to inspire hope. The talk is of hate, and the land they lost, **Christopher Walker** reports from Amman

HALF the five million Palestinians in the world, 430,000 of them in the desert kingdom of Jordan, claim to belong to a category forgotten in the new Madrid peace process.

"We are the refugees of 1947 and 1948 who are not involved in what is being negotiated at the table now," said Kassim Awar, a Palestinian who has lived in a camp ever since he was driven from his home near the port of Jaffa amid the foundation of the state of Israel. The so-called "other half", the refugees who left before the 1967 Middle East war, fear that their right of return to land which is now part of the state of Israel will be ignored and that, at best, they will receive derisory compensation.

At the Baqaa refugee camp near Amman, the Middle East's largest, 90 per cent of the 120,000 inmates are from families which fled their homes in 1947 and 1948. "For us, this peace process is meaningless," Abdel Saif, aged 67, said. "We are on the sidelines, we are not involved. It might as well be held on the moon."

The resentment of the "other half" is reflected on the squalid streets (where Westerners are provided with two Jordanian bodyguards) by the continuing worship of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, whose portrait remains everywhere. There is no sign of the olive branches which were waved in the occupied West Bank.

"Saddam Hussein lives in our hearts," Mustapha, aged 20, said. "He represents what is in our hearts because he bombed Israel. He was the first Arab leader to make the Jews cry."

No Arab official expects the refugees of 1947 and 1948 to secure the right of return. But Jordanian sources claim that, in phase three of the peace process, attempts will be made to win them financial compensation. Many still keep the keys of the homes which they left behind and dream of a return that would live up to the worst fears of Israeli hawks by requiring the destruction of the Jewish state. "My father fought the Zionists with a Sten gun, I fought them with a Kalashnikov, Saddam fought them with missiles and I hope my ten-year-old son will eventually fight them with an Arab nuclear bomb," said Mr Awar, owner of the Palestine Pharmacy.

The fury of the "other half" is in evidence whenever a Western face is spotted in the camp which began as 5,000 tents and now consists of thousands of bleak concrete dwellings. "There are hopes for peace from the talks, but it will not help these people to go back to their homes," Tahseen Bargawi, the camp administrator, said. "Attempts may be made to secure them at least the chance of going to the West Bank or Gaza but that is not where they lived."

Many refugees said angrily they would not go to live in either the West Bank or Gaza Strip as refugees. In an attempt to calm rising anger the Palestinian delegates from Madrid spent three days in Jordan on their return trying to assure Palestinians they would never forfeit the right of return originally enshrined in United Nations resolution 194, passed in December, 1948.

"We do not believe these Arab leaders, they have let us down too many times before," said Mr Awar, father of six children, who has framed the key to his old family house.

"The people in the camp are very depressed, we see it in the surgery," Hanna Abu Usbar, a young Palestinian doctor, said. "Most of them believe in the Muslim teaching that only a *jihad* (holy war) with blood coming up to their knees will get back the land the Jews stole."

The Jordanian government has promised it will allow the "other half" to remain in camps: they are scattered among 64 camps in three countries as well as in the West Bank and Gaza. But a few minutes in the Baqaa camp is enough to show the Palestinian problem will not be over until the simmering hatreds have been removed.

"Saddam is the best in the Arab world," said a five-year-old boy, parroting words taught him by his father, who was buying one of the Baghdad dailies sold in the camp shops. "No peace to Israel."

Soldiers reminded to stand on ceremony

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

IN WARTIME few generals could fault Israel's fighting ability, but the conscripted peacetime army would be enough to make even the most liberal British drill sergeant weep with frustration.

While officers and enlisted men and women admit that the finer points of military etiquette have never been a strong point in the Israeli Defence Forces, it none the less came as a surprise this week when soldiers had to be reminded to salute senior members of the government, like the president and prime minister, and to call them "sir".

"These orders have been on the books," explained a forces' spokesman. "However, they were reintroduced as a reminder. Saluting dignitaries is our way of paying respect and saying hello." The reminder to salute the country's leaders was deemed necessary because of the relaxed atmosphere in the military where soldiers, regardless of rank, call each other by their first names and after training few if any troops ever bother to salute superiors.

"There are no social barriers in the Israeli military," said one soldier. "Because we have many reservists you may find that a bank manager is of a junior rank in the army to his teller, so he will not be expected to salute and say sir. I would be surprised if there were three people who knew how to salute properly in the whole army."

Learning to march is also anathema. At a recent passing-out parade of a crack unit, troops bumped into each other during the drill.

Saudi Gatsby shows great love of largesse

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRINCE Bandar Bin Sultan, the Saudi Ambassador to Washington, is the grandson of his country's first monarch, son-in-law of the third and nephew of the latest, but he has taken to heart Rudyard Kipling's admonition: he walks with kings, but keeps the common touch.

Last weekend, he cancelled all appointments and flew in his private plane to a small Connecticut town to attend the wedding of Robert Snow, an army staff sergeant with the dubious distinction of having required the most surgery of any soldier injured in the Gulf war. His wedding gift was $100,000 (£56,000).

It was a typically flamboyant gesture from a man who has emerged as one of the "movers and shakers" in a capital full of people aspiring to that description. Prince Bandar played a crucial role in persuading King Fahd to accept 500,000 allied personnel in Saudi Arabia last year.

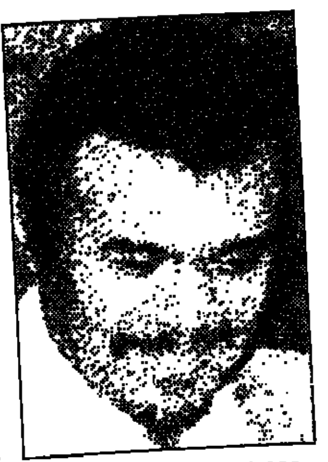
He is credited with persuading the Syrians to attend last month's Middle East peace talks in Madrid. This week it was disclosed that he has been secretly meeting American Jewish leaders in what is being portrayed here and in Jerusalem as a breakthrough in Saudi-Israeli relations.

After their last meeting at New York's Waldorf-Astoria hotel on Monday, American Jewish leaders said Prince Bandar had acknowledged that Israel was "an integral part of the region".

Prince Bandar was appointed ambassador to Washington in 1983, aged 34, after 17 years as a fighter-pilot. Until then Saudi Arabia had practically no top-level access here, but with his back-slapping bonhomie and lavish wealth, he carefully cultivated the rising politicians of the period, throwing parties at his mansion and fishing with George Bush, then vice-president, earning a reputation as an "Arab Gatsby".

According to the book *The Commanders*, by the Watergate journalist, Bob Woodward, "Prince Bandar's fingerprints were all over the Iran-Contra affair". The book alleges he channelled Saudi funding to the Nicaraguan Contras. He was the middle-man through whom William Casey, the CIA director, passed top-secret satellite information about Iranian troop movements.

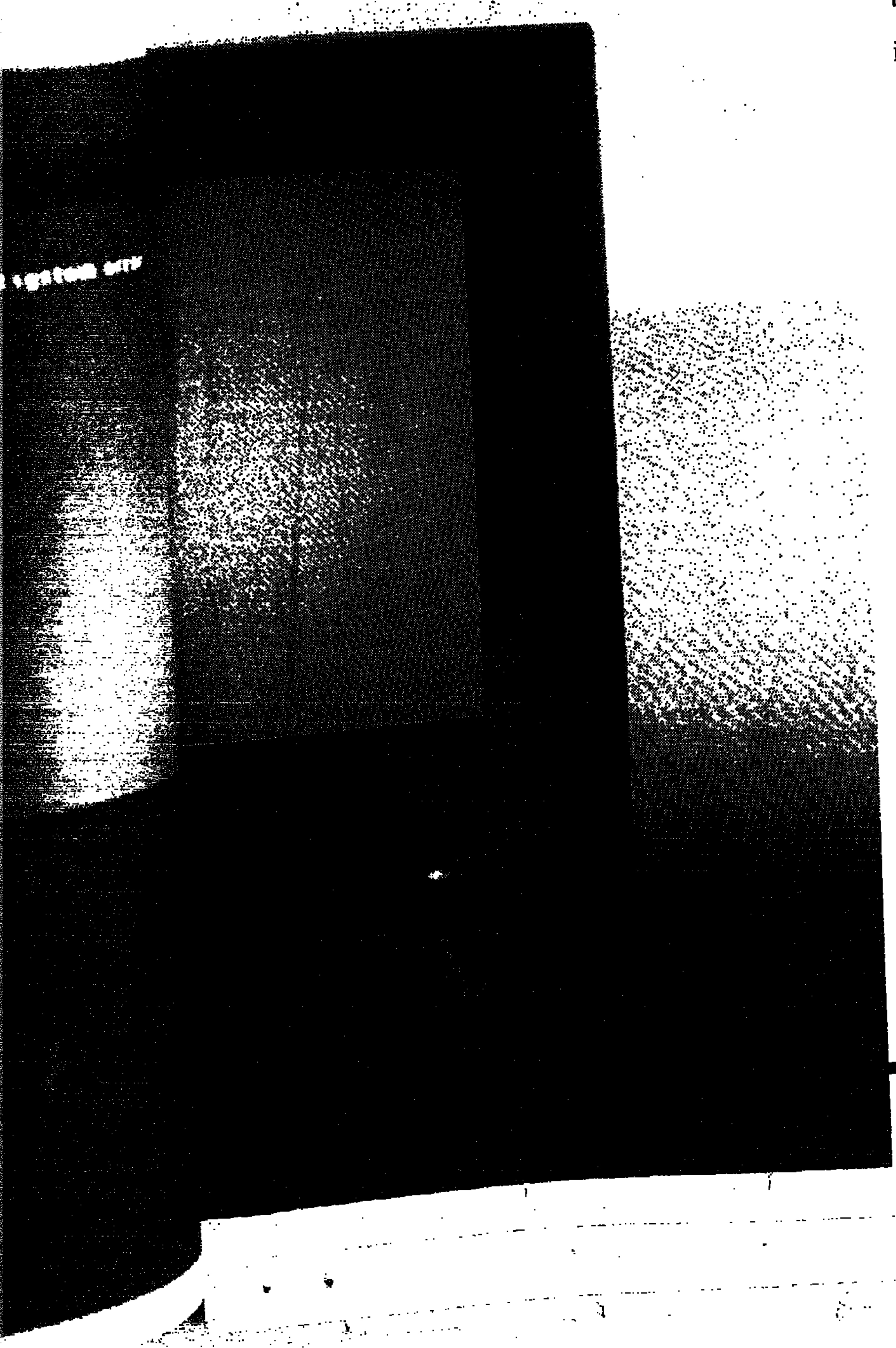
By the time Mr Bush took office in 1989, Prince Bandar was a close friend not only of the president, but of Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, James Baker, the Secretary of State, and Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.



Prince Bandar: $100,000 gift to Gulf sergeant

He acted as translator at the critical meeting at which Mr Cheney sought to persuade King Fahd of his kingdom's peril. It was he who relayed to King Fahd Mr Bush's final decision to go to war.

Prince Bandar first encountered Sergeant Snow in Washington's Walter Reed army hospital last March. The prince had back problems. The sergeant had stepped on a mine. Prince Bandar went to express his gratitude, and returned from Madrid this month to find Sergeant Snow's wedding invitation.



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Japanese wrangle grounds peace force

By JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO AND DAVID WATTS

AS JAPAN gets close to approving legislation that will allow it to send peacekeeping forces overseas for the first time, doubts are growing that such forces will ever make it to Cambodia, their proposed first destination.

Although Japanese officials have said repeatedly that they want the country to demonstrate its new world role through a peacekeeping force for Cambodia, the conditions that Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, is being compelled to put on their use seem likely to delay their debut. On Monday, when a special committee of the lower house of the Diet (parliament) began to debate the peacekeeping plan, Mr Miyazawa said he would not send troops to Cambodia as long as there was a danger of a truce violation.

"Japan's decision to send troops to join the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Cambodia will depend on whether the four Cambodian rival factions abide by the truce accord," he said. Next day he said the UN would not have the right of command over any Japanese contingent. The decision to fire in self-defence would be left to each Japanese peacekeeper, regardless of orders issued by the UN-appointed commander.

Prodded by Washington which has challenged Japan to play a more significant role in international peacekeeping, Mr Miyazawa is confronted with what some claim to be the most contentious political issue since debate over the US-Japan security pact in 1960. Gamely he has said that passage of the bill is of high priority on his agenda, and he expects it to go through in the current session of the Diet, which ends on December 10.

In what could be a crucial test of his leadership, Mr Miyazawa is being daily subjected to a barrage of opposition taunts and hedging tactics similar to those that bludgeoned Toshiki Kaifu, his predecessor, into twice abandoning the bill. The largest opposition group, the Social Democratic party, is fundamentally opposed to the dispatch of troops on the grounds that this would violate Japan's constitution, which renounces all use of force. When the party joins other opposition groups, it controls the upper house of the Diet and could inflict an embarrassing third defeat on the ruling Liberal Democratic party unless Mr Miyazawa can woo Komeito and the Democratic Social party, the second and third largest opposition groups, on to his side.

To that end Mr Miyazawa has spent the past week tying himself in verbal knots, offering compromises that have left America and Tokyo-based members of the UN wondering whether Japanese participation in a UN peacekeeping operation may turn out to be more of a hindrance than a help.

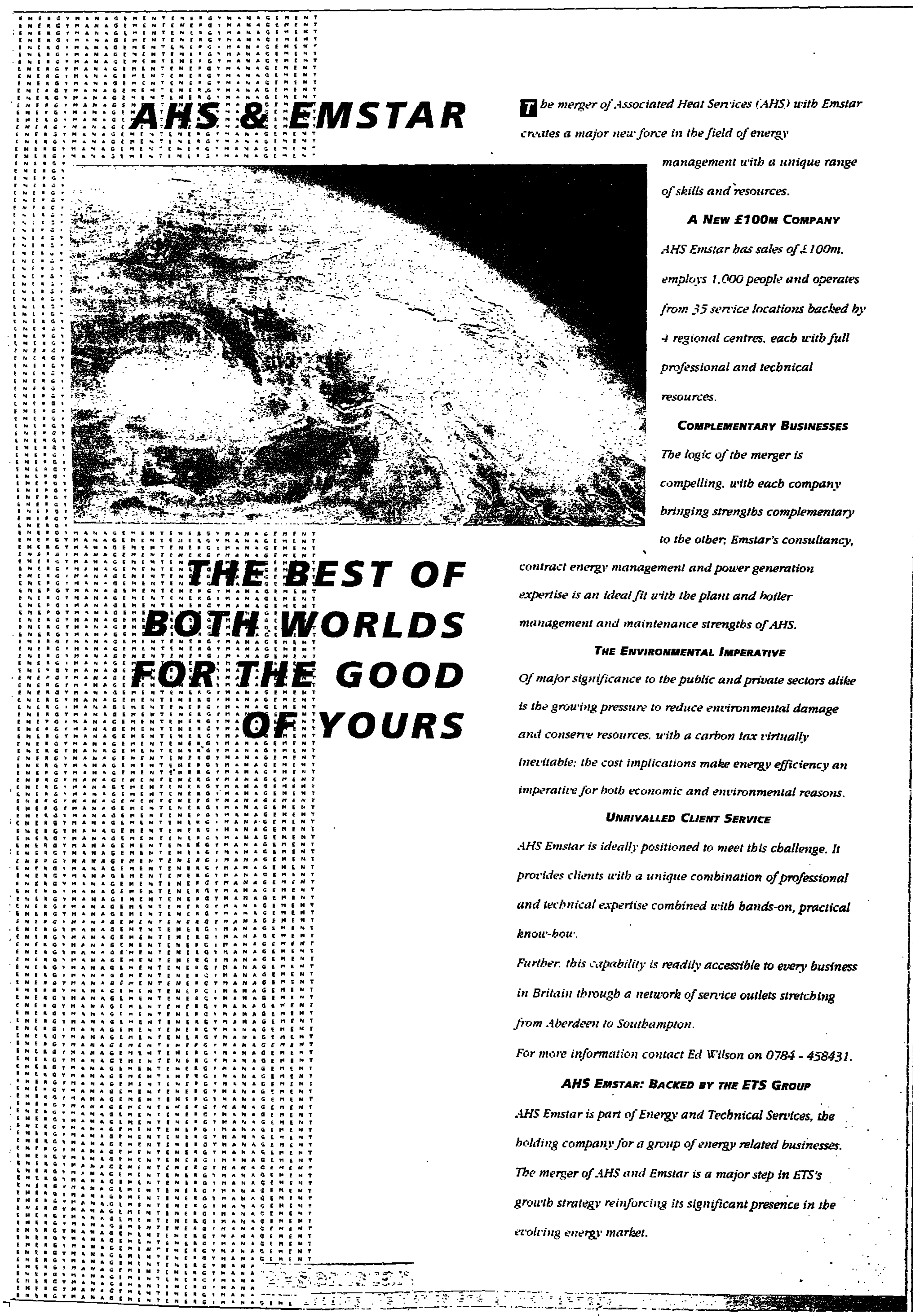
The envisioned role of the Japanese forces is already strictly circumscribed, according to stipulations introduced by Mr Kaifu designed to appease the opposition parties. A ceasefire agreement must already be in place before troops are sent, all countries in the region and parties to the conflict must approve of Japanese participation, and forces must withdraw if hostilities break out.

On top form: Prince Norodom Sihanouk, jubilant since his return home last week after 13 years' exile, who was yesterday officially declared Cambodia's president by Hor Namhong, the foreign minister. The appointment, completing the prince's effective reversal of his country's history, came appropriately on the day Cambodia celebrates the Festival of the Reversing of the Current, when the main Tonle Sap river reverses its flow under pressure from the larger Mekong and moves upstream, for six months, into the great Tonle Sap lake (James Pringle writes from Phnom Penh).

In the declaration, the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh, led by Heng Samrin, said the prince "has always remained the absolutely legal and legitimate head of state of Cambodia as before the coup of March 18, 1970". Sworn enemies a month ago, the prince and former rivals sat in a pavilion at the confluence of the Mekong and Tonle Sap to celebrate the festival, also marking the end of the flood season and the start of harvest. "This is justice for Prince Norodom Sihanouk," the former monarch shouted to the crowd, among whom were thousands of UN truce observers.

Since the Cambodian peace accord was signed on October 23, new political alliances are emerging and it transpires now that Prince Sihanouk has always been regarded as the legal head of state by the Heng Samrin regime. The chief enemy of this new alliance, it now seems, is not the notorious Khmer Rouge but the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, the resistance faction led by Son Sann, the former prime minister due to return to Cambodia today.

The front is the successor to the US-backed Lon Nol regime which overthrew Prince Sihanouk in 1970 and which, in turn, was ousted by the Khmer Rouge. "You must not look at all this in terms of logic," said a foreign diplomat yesterday, explaining the change of allegiances. "I suppose it is a political reversing of the current." Yesterday's declaration said that the "reactionary coup" of 1970 was illegal and "the main cause of tragedies befallen the Cambodian people and nation for the last two decades".



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Pyongyang hints at nuclear site checks

By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

HINTS of a North Korean compromise on inspection of its nuclear facilities emerged yesterday as Richard Cheney, the American secretary of defence, took up the issue during a visit to South Korea.

The clue was dropped by a senior North Korean cadre attending a Washington conference when he said that Pyongyang could soften its insistence on a withdrawal of American forces from South Korea before such inspections take place. More important was simultaneous inspection of the nuclear facilities in both North and South Korea.

The disclosure was made by Choi U Jin, vice-president of the North Korean Institute for Disarmament and Peace, who led a three-man delegation to a closed conference, Korea in the '90s, at the Gaston Sigur Institute for Asian Studies, George Washington University. Only Americans and North Koreans attended.

That hint coincided with a South Korean proposal to be discussed by Mr Cheney, General Colin Powell, the American chief of staff, and their Korean counterparts that the North be offered a scaling-down of the annual Team Spirit spring exercise, a reduction in the number of US troops, and international inspection of American bases for nuclear weapons.

Indonesia arrests rights activists

London — Indonesia has arrested three human rights activists to prevent them going to East Timor to investigate the two mass killings of civilians by the military (David Watts writes).

Indro Tjahyono, of the Indonesian Front for Human Rights, Poncke Princen, chairman of the League for the Defence of Human Rights, and Yopie Lasut are being held by the armed forces. The territory's military commander has admitted his men fired into a crowd of mourners for up to ten minutes.

Reporter returns

Peking — Dai Qing, the Chinese dissident and journalist, returned home after disappearing for five days during the visit of James Baker, the American Secretary of State. She said she was abducted by agents operating on the orders of her state-controlled paper, the *Guangming Daily*, and taken to Beidaihe. *(Reuter)*

Mending fences

Islamabad — American officials, led by Reginald Bartholomew, the undersecretary of state, held "cordial and useful" talks with Pakistan after President Ishaq Khan had accused the US of discriminating against Islamabad. Washington had cut off all aid, believing Pakistan was making nuclear weapons. *(Reuter)*

British pair train spotlight on poor

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

FOR 15 years Ashley and Jane Butterfield have shared the lives of railway families living in *jhuggis* beside the tracks at New Delhi railway station. Every porter, ticket clerk, sweeper and station beggar knows the Yorkshire couple's old red carriage. Whenever it clatters back down the tracks from its wanderings around India, it is greeted by hordes of children.

The Butterfields invariably return with clothes and other presents. In the crowded huts where generations of railwaymen have brought up their families, it seems everybody has a story to tell about the couple's generosity. Not only in Delhi, but across India, at countless railway stations, they and their old wooden carriage are a familiar sight.

Chotey Lal, a railway labourer earning the equivalent of £1 a day, said he could never have raised the dowry for four of his daughters without the Butterfields' help. Even then he had to go deeply into debt with moneylenders.

Standing outside a brick hut where he lives with a dozen family members a few feet from the tracks at New Delhi station, he said: "I have not had any problems since the Butterfields came into my life. I know my family will be all right if I die. It is a great comfort. I came home for lunch one day many years ago and there they were: they have been in my life ever since."

Children besiege the Butterfields whenever they step down to the tracks from their carriage, which they use every winter to ferry tourists round India. In the summer they return to their Wimbledon flat, staying in touch by sending occasional letters to railway families through the station manager.

Children wait for hours outside the carriage hoping for a cast-off shirt or a pair of shoes. Mrs Butterfield, aged 41, says she introduces tourists to the slum families "because then they see these people as individuals, not just as the faceless poor". Sitting on a charpoy alongside the tracks, with children clambering over her, she added: "Being poor in India does not mean being miserable."

As she talked, women hung their washing on signal cables, boys played football between the tracks and girls skipped over a rope made of bits of string. "Look around: life goes on beside these tracks much as it does everywhere," she said.

The Butterfields have fought many battles for destitute railway children, and shared in personal dramas when the authorities once threatened to demolish the slum huts. Shabana, a young mother just out of jail for drug pushing, has turned up to get news of her daughter, aged eight, whom the Butterfields helped place in care.

A huge crowd of children and adults gathered round to listen above the din of a train rumbling by. For the Butterfields, it's all in the day's work.

The pain and joy of ex

Divorce can be the key to better health for those locked into unhappy marriages, says **Victoria McKee**

CLAIRE MACKINTOSH

New woman: since her divorce, Alison Coates, aged 37, has enjoyed perfect health and a happy life as a single parent

When Alison Coates was married she was constantly ill, suffering from stomach aches, headaches and severe period pains. The cure for her was a divorce. None of her symptoms have returned during nine years of single parenthood.

According to two reports published this week, divorce is now considered to affect health, but contrary to the experience of Ms Coates, aged 37, the reports claim that divorce is causing a great deal of damage. If marital breakdown could be prevented, they suggest, the National Health Service could save millions.

Marital Breakdown and the Health of the Nation, by One Plus One, formerly the Marriage Research Centre, and *The Decay of Marriage*, by George Brown, the divorce lawyer, published by the Family Education Trust, look into the effects of divorce on the country's health.

According to the One Plus One report, divorced men aged between 35 and 44 are twice as likely to die early as married men of the same age. Divorced women aged between 29 and 34 are one-and-a-half times more likely to die early than their married counterparts, and three times as likely to attempt suicide. Both divorced men and women drink and smoke more, and are prone to diseases such as hypertension, asthma, headaches and chest pains.

> *'Unhappiness is unhappiness and if people are unhappy they are likely to get ill'*

But what about the ills that an unhappy marriage breeds, and the positive effect of being released?

As with Ms Coates, Sally Benjamin, an American living in Britain, found that her health improved when she divorced. Ms Benjamin, aged 54, is the co-founder of The Renewal Trust, which refers women alcoholics and addicts for treatment. She is a recovering alcoholic herself, who "sobered up" during the last of her three marriages.

"During that marriage — when I was sober — I developed ulcers, tiny little pin-prick ones, and I also had painful boils," Mrs Benjamin says. "The doctor told me it was tension. It was only after the divorce that I began to be aware that I wasn't getting the boils any more, and that if I forgot to take the pills for the ulcers nothing happened."

Dr Jan de Winter, the founder of the Jan de Winter Cancer Prevention Centre in Brighton, feels that unhappiness in a relationship can suppress the immune system and make you more susceptible to disease of all kinds. He believes an unhappy marriage is more likely adversely to affect a woman, who may have invested more in her personal life, than a man — while the new statistics seem to show that divorce is more damaging to the health of men.

So is it better, purely from the health perspective, to stick in an unhappy marriage or to divorce?

Professor Cary Cooper, a stress expert, and his wife Rachel, a lecturer, have experienced both an unhappy marriage and unhealthy divorce. Professor Cooper recalls that in the run-up to his divorce from his first wife, he suffered a viral illness. "My immune system completely collapsed, rather like having ME [myalgic encephalomyelitis]," he says. Rachel Cooper, his second wife, also experienced physical symptoms when her previous marriage broke up: "I developed a rash and my face blew up," she remembers. "But all this happened afterwards, possibly because my husband left me, rather than the other way around."

Professor Cooper is involved in a ten-year study of 500 senior British executives and confirms that, "where divorce is occurring we see illness even in male 'ladder-climbers' who, perhaps, worry that people will perceive them as having failed. I know I felt a failure because of my divorce."

The Coopers' experiences would seem to confirm the theory that the partner who feels unhappy enough in the marriage to initiate divorce proceedings is more likely to suffer health symptoms before the decision, while the passive participant in a divorce may have physical symptoms afterwards.

Zelda West-Meads, of Relate, explains: "The initiating partner has been starting to go through in their mind the separation, so they're further down the road than the partner who is left." While Mrs West-Meads agrees that, "the process of divorce is damaging", she also believes that, "an unhappy marriage is bad for your health. With divorce there can be a sense of recovery."

Dr Jack Dominion, the founder of One Plus One, says: "The evidence is that there are a lot of problems among the divorced, some of which may be due to the stress of having lost a partner, some simply to the single state. If you have stress you really ought to try to do something about it, rather than rushing into divorce."

Dr David Zigmond, a specialist in psychosomatics at the Hammersmith Hospital, west London, says that he has referred as many patients to Relate as to hospitals. "Unhappiness is unhappiness and if people are unhappy they are likely to get ill," he says. "For some people being trapped in an unhappy marriage is the worst, thing, for others it's being alone." No studies have yet been done on how second marriages affect the health, for better or for worse.

Waite: never say die

MEDICAL BRIEFING

●

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

TERRY Waite's career in the army was short-lived. The dye in the uniform induced eczema and he had to transfer from serving the Queen in the Grenadier Guards to serving God in the Church Army.

Seldom can a liability to suffer from allergic diseases have had such far-reaching consequences. History does not relate whether the itch and inflammation was due to khaki or scarlet dye, or even the bearskin. Four people in a thousand suffer from an allergy to fur. But had it not been for his dermatitis Terry Waite might now be a retired, respected but feared, regimental sergeant major, rather than a serving church diplomat, internationally famous for his faith and courage.

The dye in clothes that does the damage belongs to the phenylenediamine group. It is used in some furs, though it seems unlikely it would be applied to bearskins. The trouble may be either generalised or localised, as under a watchstrap or under tight, dyed clothing.

Many patients, for instance, have been driven by fear and conscience to a sexually transmitted diseases clinic when gaudy tight pants have caused a nasty reaction. Phenylenediamine sensitivity can even occasionally cause asthma, from which Terry Waite suffers.

The atopic diseases, hay fever, asthma, eczema and some forms of urticaria are linked and caused by an hereditary hypersensitivity to a wide variety of environmental allergens.

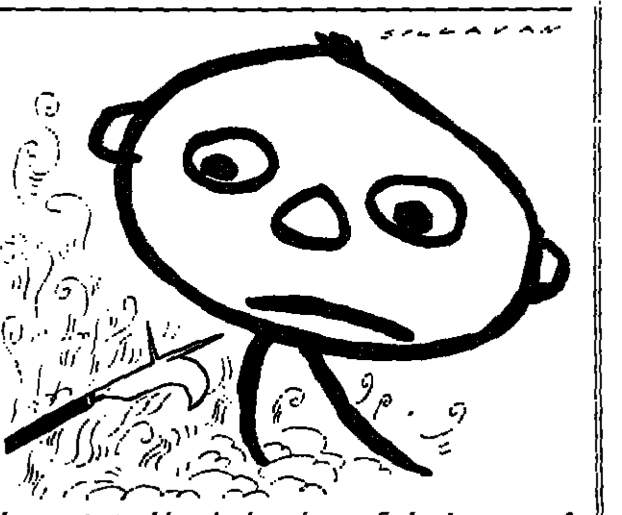
In the five years Terry Waite was held hostage, research into the treatment of asthma has advanced but the first principle of treatment in allergic diseases remains the removal, when possible, of the cause of the allergy, whether, as in Mr Waite's case from his uniform, or an asthmatic child from a beloved cat.

As the drugs used in the treatment of asthma have become more efficient the need to reduce the exposure to triggering substances has, mistakenly, been overlooked in favour of an increased reliance on anti-spasmodics.

The first line of attack when the regular use of drugs is needed should be the low-dose inhaled steroids. These have an anti-inflammatory rather than an anti-spasmodic role and can be supplemented if necessary by selective beta adrenoceptor stimulants.

One of this group, the long-acting Serevent, which may also have some minor anti-inflammatory powers, has been introduced since Mr Waite last went to the chemists; but he will still need to carry Ventolin or a similar preparation, for emergency first aid use. Drugs of the medihaler type are now less widely prescribed.

A whiff of worry



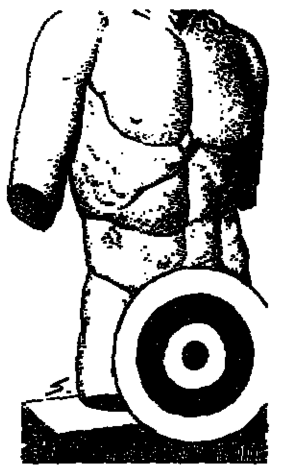
EVEN if a dog is given a bad name, death erases its memory. Not so in medicine: attribute a disaster to a drug and its notoriety lives on for generations.

Seventy-five years ago a nine-week-old baby died when its stuffy nose was treated with an aromatic decongestant made from balsam, menthol, pine oils and eucalyptus. No direct link was ever proved but ever since then, text books have carried a warning about the use of aromatic decongestants in treating small children.

The British National Formulary advises that these homely remedies should not be used in children under three months. The death of another nine-week-old baby has recently rekindled this anxiety. The child's mother used Karvol, an aromatic decongestant, although she could not remember if she had used any on the day the child died.

Although the *British Medical Journal* decreed in 1989 that there was no evidence that aromatic decongestants were dangerous for very young babies, it would seem a wise precaution to find other ways of cleaning their noses, perhaps with cotton buds. In future Karvol will carry the British National Formulary advice on its label, not because its safety is doubted, but on the general principle that the treatment of young babies should be under medical supervision.

Taking heart from urology



ST PETER'S Hospital and the Institute of Urology, the oldest postgraduate teaching unit in London, moves today from Soho to the Middlesex Hospital. Eighty-five per cent of urological surgeons have done some of their training at St Peter's, which also specialises in kidney diseases.

Urology, the study of urinary tract diseases, should be of particular interest to men, as each year more than 7,000 die of cancer of the prostate, the second most common cause of death from malignant disease. Most men over 65 have some trouble from benign prostatic enlargement.

The good news is that research is finding ways of detecting cancer of the prostate early, and is evaluating various treatments for both benign and malignant prostatic disease. The outlook in serious renal disease has never been better, whether due to such diverse causes as polycystic kidney disease or diabetes.

Champion of sanity

Is the Prince of Wales pushing his medical interests to the front?

The Prince of Wales recently took William Waldegrave, the health secretary, to see the doctor. Not that Mr Waldegrave was unwell; more that the Prince is an enthusiast for a particular health centre in Marylebone, central London, which he feels should be much more widely copied. Marylebone offers mainstream general practice and a variety of complementary medical treatments under one roof.

Occasionally and unkindly branded as eccentric over the years for his advocacy of a "whole man" approach to health, the Prince's interest in medicine continues apace, the only difference now being that his pronouncements are not so readily dismissed as they once were. Belinda Harley, who joins his staff as his first female assistant private secretary, is likely to find herself very busy on her master's medical portfolio.

This year, continuing his holistic crusade, the Prince has been taking a particular interest in mental illness. Addressing the launching of an appeal by Sane, the schizophrenia charity, the Prince entered the supposedly forbidden field of politics when he said that successive governments had followed a policy of treating the mentally ill in the community, but sadly it was too often the case that the required degree of care could not be provided.

"Putting aside ethical and humanitarian considerations, when mental illness fills four out of ten NHS beds [more than any other single illness] it is surely just sensible economics to invest a reasonable sum of money in the hope of discovering improved methods of prevention, treatment and cure."

His own polo injuries — a broken arm and a degenerating lower spine — have given him fresh insights. He paid warm tribute to the skills of his Australian physiotherapist, Sarah Key, contributing a foreword to her book *Back In Action* in which he wrote: "There will always be people who disapprove when collective conventional thinking is challenged, in the field of medicine or any other area for that matter, but there must surely be a place for common sense and a 'natural' non-invasive approach."

The Prince's high medical profile stems from his speech to the British Medical Association (BMA) in 1982, when he castigated doctors for being so scornful of alternative remedies. As a result the BMA set up an investigation into alternative therapies, and is now somewhat more kindly disposed towards them.

But while extolling the holistic approach, the Prince still swims in the mainstream. He is patron of the Royal College of General Practitioners, a supporter of the King's Fund, a medical charity, and is patron of the Macmillan cancer relief appeal. Even the Prince is aware that alternative therapy alone is not enough to cure every ill.

ALAN HAMILTON

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22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA. Tel: 071-383 3513
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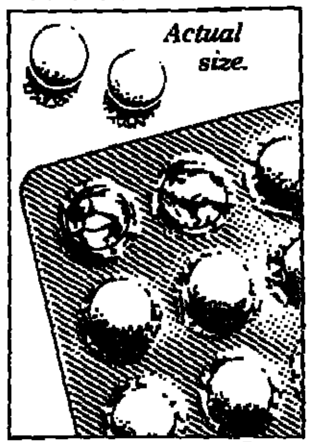

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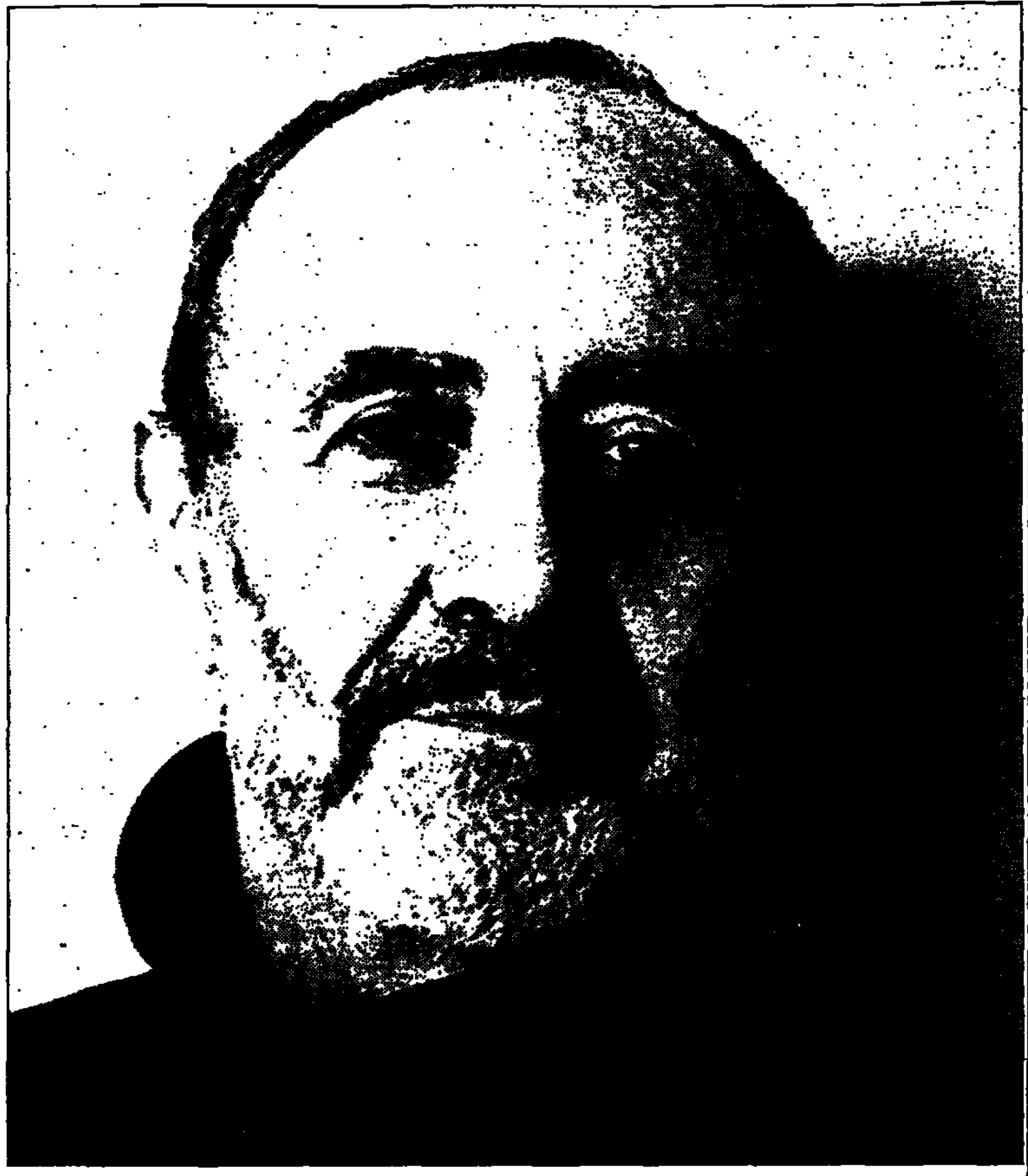
The novel as mazy marathon

The strange case of the emperor's first novel: **Hugh Barnes** on a monumental, maddening but marvellous book, which the literati have already been discussing for 30 years

JERRY BAVER



Harold Brodkey, and the loneliness of the writer as long-distance celebrity, with a famous unfinished novel

The idea of the writer as anchorite or recluse is currently fashionable in the United States, where the reputations of celebrity hermits such as J. D. Salinger and Thomas Pynchon swell inexorably with every book they don't publish. Perhaps America's most famous non-novelist is Harold Brodkey, who has spent the last 30 years writing (and re-writing) his first novel.

Although Brodkey has published only two collections of short stories in the past, his awesome unproductivity has made him a favourite among New York's literati, who never tire of gossiping about his brilliant anti-career. In some respects, Brodkey is a victim of what Henry James called "exaggerated homage". He has been compared to Proust, Wordsworth, Freud, and even Shakespeare. And yet it is almost inevitable that the excitement aroused by publication of *The Runaway Soul* will soon give way to a strong sense of anti-climax. By finishing the world's most notorious unfinished novel, Brodkey could be performing an act of vandalism on his own reputation.

So much for the emperor's new novel. Because reticence is not only the method but also the theme of *The Runaway Soul*, it is worth observing that the novel is no more, and no less, than a comedy about the duplicity of a writer — even, or perhaps especially, with respect to his own life. Unfortunately it is a *comedy without much humour*, without much narrative continuity. As you would expect of a novelist intent on tracking his private thoughts over 850 pages, Brodkey is pretty indifferent to the bewilderment he induces in the reader.

The Runaway Soul is primarily about a young boy growing up, as Brodkey did, in St Louis during the Thirties. After the death of his natural mother, Wiley (the hero/narrator) is adopted by the more or less respectable family of S. L. Silenowicz, a low-level entrepreneur, and his shrewd but domineering wife Lila. The couple already have a daughter, Nonie, who is ten years older than Wiley. Dizzy and hysterical, she gets jealous because S. L. grows fonder of his adopted son than of his wife and daughter.

The novel's pattern of discontinuity stems from its chaotic time-scheme which juxtaposes different periods in Wiley's life, sometimes inverting chronology. Brodkey appears to be more interested in *playing variations on clumsiness* than in capturing the passage of time. Later episodes precede earlier ones in the sequence of the novel. For instance, the story begins with Wiley's birth and then jumps forward 15 years to S. L.'s death and then back a dozen years to his infancy and then forward 20 years to Harvard, and then back again, and so on.

Brodkey hints and tantalises. Years of reworking mean he does not have to be particular. In a way, that makes *The Runaway Soul* difficult to read; it is overlong. At times Brodkey seems to get carried away. He can devote 30 pages to the exact tonality of his mother's voice, and even more to a sexual act. The sex scenes are not particularly *explicit, but they are erotic in the* best way: they show us what the characters really feel.

The novel is sympathetic — some people might say too sympathetic — to these irritating, remarkably self-absorbed people, but you cannot help forgiving the novel's faults on account of its sheer genius and insight. Brodkey handles the characters intricately, with perversity and erudition. He doesn't understand them to death. He doesn't turn them into literature.

The most traumatic childhood scene occurs during a thunderstorm — it's Brodkey's big number — and *although he turns the storm into* a violent phantasmagoric nightmare, he does not overdo a single thing. Indeed it amazes you that he can do so much with thunder and lightning — just a little panic. Brodkey seems to be having fun.

A good argument can be made, however, that fun is not Brodkey's

THE RUNAWAY SOUL
By Harold Brodkey
Cape, £15.99

métier. Here and there, *The Runaway Soul* shows signs of strain — in *its occasionally forced dialogue*, and its repetitions that do not enrich but merely rephrase what has already been said. Shocking and obsessive, boring even, the novel is unlike anything else you will read this year, or next year, or the year after. It is a painstaking work in scale and in emotional pitch.

Although the prose is lucidly beautiful, and its rhythm is almost lulling, Brodkey's tone can be murderously elusive. His anger and intellect sit together guarding his cold empty heart — maddened by it — but his attitude towards the material is so complicated and *ambiguous that the narrative is* always on the verge of losing its balance. Some of Brodkey's paragraphs are almost wholly opaque — jagged, layered, diffuse. Some of his characters are so tangled up that you could spend the next 30 years reading (and re-reading) this marvellous novel and still not figure them out.

Virginian creepers

Antonia Bremner

I CANNOT GET YOU CLOSE ENOUGH
By Ellen Gilchrist
Faber, £14.99

MEANS OF ESCAPE
By Hugh Brody
Faber £14.99

HELPING VERBS OF THE HEART
By Péter Esterházy
Translated by Michael Henry Heim
Grove Weidenfeld, £12.99

Ellen Gilchrist's last novel, *The Anna Papers*, explored the legacy left by the peaceful, famous, rich Anna Hand, most *particularly her credo that the* human race would never have made it this far "if someone wasn't having fun at least part of the time". But at the very beginning of that book, 43-year-old Anna, discovering she had cancer, walked off a pier into the Atlantic ocean. She was wearing a fur-lined Valentino jacket, and recalling a stray moment spent with one of her more inconsequential lovers. She sure had style, and that novel brimmed with her posthumous exuberance.

In **I Cannot Get You Close Enough**, Gilchrist returns (after an interlude for two short story collections) for yet more of the Anna aftermath. Three inter-connecting sections tell the story of Anna's nieces, Jessie and Olivia. Jessie is the daughter of a local belle, Olivia of a Cherokee.

The third story brings the two half-sisters together, the two inheritors of Anna's spirit, only for them to fall into tawdry trouble, cheating at high school, learning the hard way about birth control, and freaking out their father, Anna's brother Daniel. Anna's exuberance fits uncomfortably on the shoulders of her survivors. The saying of hers that floods the narratives now is: "I believe life is supposed to be tragic; why else would we need whiskey or need God?" And tragic it is. Philandering, alcoholic fathers cannot understand why their sons are in drug rehab. Spoilt, bored wives run off with terrorists, until daddy's dollars come to the rescue. Everyone gets over-*emotional and stamps a foot.*

Perhaps it is an over-elaborate illustration of a title scene — "We cannot get from anyone else the things we need . . . *so* we revolve around each other and our dreams collide." But no. Surely Ellen Gilchrist, who used to be so funny, will stop revisiting these bit part players: the Hands, the Mannings, Lydia, Traceleen and Crystal. She needs to find another worthy cypher, another Anna, to bear the full recklessness of her winning prose.

Hugh Brody's first volume of fiction, **Means of Escape**, is a natural extension of his classic works of anthropology, and no less powerful as fiction for that. In each of the five stories a sharply etched landscape, or a journey back to the place of one's origin, is the trigger for a strong emotional release for someone who has been adrift in a sea of change.

The holocaust is a terrible map-destroying event that lies *at the back of two tales*, "Family Trees" and "The Lake". In both cases elderly Jewish women, who escaped to England during the war, married and settled here for life, have to confront the memories of what happened to their families.

There is no escape, de*spite the title: history* must tell itself. And so Aunt Sonia is forced to relive the holocaust, to pass her story down through the family; and so an elderly couple, driving to Berlin to witness the pulling down of the Wall, transcend years of silence as the wife tells her husband for the first time how she survives.

Helping Verbs of the Heart: A Novel is the first of Péter Esterházy's books to be published in English. Highly respected in Hungary for his innovative novels on controversial subjects, he deals here, autobiographically one has to assume, with the death of a parent. With his *father, two brothers and* a sister, the narrator visits his mother in hospital, attends her funeral, and struggles to make sense of her demise.

Interwoven among the black-rimmed pages are excerpts and quotations from Camus, St Paul and others. Just as one is getting used to *this* philosophical perspective, the impertinent, incongruously lusty, voice of the deceased enters the narrative, talking to her bewildered son. The reader is completely cut out by the author's final line: "Some day I'll write about all this in more detail."

The lady was for spurning

Victoria Glendinning

BLOODY MARGARET
By Mark Lawson
Picador, £14.99

THE author of *Bloody Margaret* is the other Mark Lawson — unless the Mark Lawson who is the son of the former-Chancellor is the other Mark Lawson.

Anyway, it's not that one but the other one. I hope this is clear. The cover illustration is a Steadman cartoon of herself, *handbag in one hand* and hatchet in the other, torso and head exploding in a terrifyingly aggressive Rorschach splatter of Tory-blue ink-splodges.

The book consists of three fictional squibs about the 1980s. The first and longest, "The Nice Man Cometh", is about the fall and fall of the SDP, with special reference to the real-life Gang of Four and to the fictional Graham Sterling, who is so lost in his pursuit of the middle way that he can't tell his right wellie from his left.

The Nice *People's* Party seems custom-made for Graham — if not for his friends, who include a pompous hard-left bore and a jovial Conser*vative bore. They, like* Graham's awful wife, are all cartoon characters, and meant to be — I think. This is animated journalism by an animated journalist who cannot resist the mission to inform. Graham has a difficulty in bed: the nice man cometh not. This book has the same little problem. It is subtitled "Three Political Fantasies", but the fantasy is repeatedly flattened by facts before it can take off. Although "the writer is nervously aware that most people are sensibly incurious about the minutiae of politics", he continues to dole them out in the brisk manner of colour-supplement reviews-of-the-decade.

But there are endless good jokes along the way as the group of friends, in a series of dreadful dinner-parties which give scope for satirising 1980s sex*ual mores and class indicators*, adjust their ideological sets to the Falklands war, Big Bang and the fall of the Wall.

There is much funny and finely tuned social observation, such as how to tell the committed left-wing from the apathetic majority by their pronunciation of Nicaragua: "Knee-har-rah-wah" for the former, "Knicker-rag-wa" for the rest.

The last story, "Teach Yourself American in Seven Days", is a sarcastic cross-cultural romp about an English journalist who turns *himself* into an American.

The middle tale, the title story, is a kaleidoscopic vision of the fall of Mrs Thatcher as seen by a security man, a cleaning-woman at No 10, her chief Press Secretary, an old schoolfriend, a soldier who lost his face in the Falklands, a sceptical reporter, a loyal*ish* cabinet minister, her spiritual adviser, an ultra-loyal backbencher and the lady in Shepherds Bush who allegedly administered the electric baths ("More power! more power!").

There are spurts of real fantasy here and, among much scurrility, the acknowledgement that even the most hard-nosed observer shed a tear as the car drew away from Downing Street with the lady for the last time. This spirited book will give a lot of guilty pleasure to all parties. No one *is spared. No sacred cow is left* unshot.

Journo as sleuth

Marcel Berlins

MURDEROUS JUSTICE
By Steve Haywood
Collins, £13.99

UNEMPLOYED hack, Archie Archibold, hired by eccentric television producer to travel urgently to Yorkshire Dales to look into nine-year-old murder, for which wrong man may have been convicted. Goaded by enigmatic phone calls from his boss, the shambling, amiably confused Archie uncovers new evidence, lying witnesses, and more deaths. Spirited first-*timer full of quirky humour.*

- **Pastime**, by Robert Parker (*Viking, £14.99*). Literate Boston gumshoe Spenser in reflective, sombre mood helping young friend find his wayward ma, fled with her lover to escape nasties. Spenser's own parental hang-ups revealed, his love for Susan the shrink tested. Taut, thoughtful, and would be among the best Spensers but for over-intrusion of new dog.

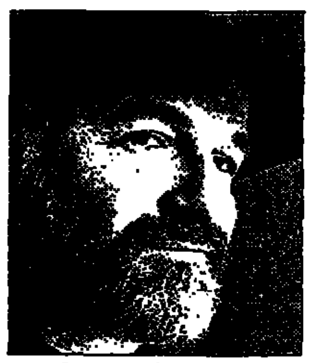
- **H is for Homicide**, by Sue Grafton (*Macmillan, £13.99*). The first Grafton disappointment. For once the *ebullient* Kinsey Millhone is ill at ease, in a story in which she spends much of her time in captivity among vicious crooks, doing undercover work for police on the trail of an insurance scam.

Fairy Stories are just SF arsy-versy for fun

SCIENCE FICTION

Tom Hutchinson

WITCHES ABROAD



By Terry Pratchett
Gollancz, £13.99

ONCE UPON A TIME
Edited by Lester Del Ray and Risa Kessler
Legend, £16.99, paperback, £9.99

SO OFTEN science fictions are fairy tales knocked sideways by technology. The darkling plain is flash-lit by the radiance of radiation, the horizon-distant castle turns out to be a turreted database. Star Wars' movies understood this, tapping the mythic vein beneath the robot skull. But, here we have SF writers and fantasists barging into the fiercely hallowed ground of such legend — witches, dragons, elves — without the protective armour of a rationale. Both books work marvellously. If, Scout-like, you rub them together for Christmas, there'll be a hot time in the Sacred Grove tonight.

Who knows, it might even spark a whole new genre. Pratchett's latest spin to his Discworld, **Witches Abroad**, rushes headlong at the fairy ethos, with those weird sisters, Grannies Weatherwax, Ogg and Garlick, trying to stop a happy ending before it climaxes in disaster for all, but delight for the good/wicked godmother, Lady Lilith.

This is all a bit more self-conscious than we're used to from Pratchett and, while his jokes are still the best thing since Wodehouse, his intent has a very definite serious undertow. Addicts should especially note his concern with the fairy story itself whose "very existence overlays a faint but insistent pattern on the chaos that is history. Stories etch grooves deep enough for people to follow in the same way that water follows certain paths down a mountainside. And every time fresh actors tread the path of the story, the groove runs deeper."

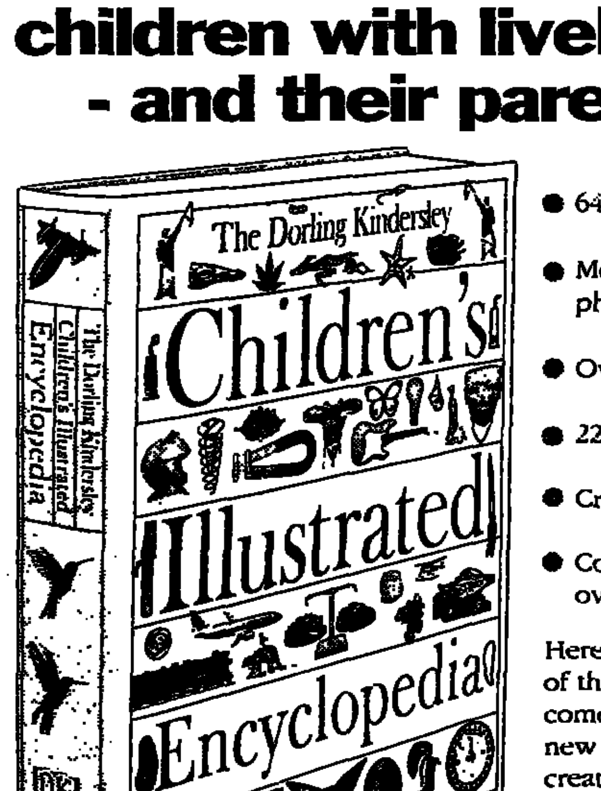
Fear not, though, that the author is taking himself in too deeply. His comic footnotes are still glorious — "dwarf-tribes have no female pronouns . . . it follows that the courtship of dwarfs is an incredibly tactful affair" — and he can even make the grim reaper into a good-humour man.

The lordly ones in the stories from **Once Upon a Time** range from the contem*porary-cute of Isaac Asimov* — does the Princess really have silicone implants? — to Terry Brooks's exquisite story of a dying boy who discovers that the troll he is fighting is really his disease. Asimov, though, does redeem himself with as joyful a reluctant dragon as ever Kenneth Grahame envisaged, and the other writers keen their New Age unicorns well-pastured and sleek with the freshness of their different style of grooming. But, of course, it is all the other side of the looking-glass upon reflection: to prove that science fiction can become fairy story: SF to FS. Either way round, the result is magic.

- **Terminal Velocity**, by Bob Shaw (*Gollancz, £13.99*). Bob Shaw delivers. He guts atmosphere to streamline the action, but in this story of skycop Hasson it works in a world where an anti-gravity harness has given the free-fall freedom of the skies to everyone — the M25 has never seen so much turmoil. Hasson has to overcome his phobias, cope with a psychopath called The Fireman, and deal with illegal sky-gangs on top of a Babel-high hotel. Fasten your seat-belts — it's a bumpy ride.

- **Opfer**, by Claire Powell (*Book Guild, £14.95*). This one-volume trilogy — let's face it: three novellas — assumes a childish treble of style to tell its epic tale. This is about a feud that flees an obliterated Earth in an emotional universe, where telepathy pierces innermost thoughts. That style doesn't always adjust to content, but the compulsion to read on is there, all right. Cut the condescension and we have a fine new writer.

- **Albion**, by John Grant (*Headline, £14.95*). The author has a more direct way with an alternative-world epic, as shipwrecked Terman helps Albion's lower orders against the ruling House. There are hints that a political allegory is about to break through the narrative chinks, but — the Despot be praised — that never seems to happen. Great story-telling.



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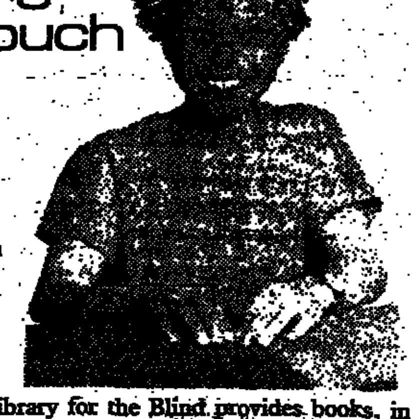

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Dangerous excess mars late liaison

Geoff Brown reviews Milos Forman's *Valmont*, plus *The Two Jakes*, *Point Break*, *Hangin' with the Homeboys*, *K2* and *Switch*

When Milos Forman's film **Valmont** (15, Lumière) was released two years ago in Europe and the United States, audiences were hard to find. Having supped so recently on Glenn Close and John Malkovich in *Dangerous Liaisons*, most people felt disinclined to watch the same story with different actors. But now that Stephen Frears' Oscar-winner is drifting into memory, *Valmont* – inspired by Laclos's original novel of sexual intrigue, rather than Christopher Hampton's play – finally appears in Britain.

If *Dangerous Liaisons* won the first battle over audiences, *Valmont* wins the beauty contest. Miroslav Ondricek's images shimmer with plush interiors, manicured scenery and rapturous light that seems to have escaped from a Watteau painting. Every item is high quality: silk shirts by Tirelli; chateaux by the French aristocracy; production design by Pierre Guffroy, a master conjuror of cinematic space.

But beauty brings perils along with delights, especially in a costume drama, where humans can easily become lost among the wigs, parasols and period flummery. Forman doubles the risk by his unusual approach to Laclos' venomous characters. Where Malkovich's Vicomte undertook his seduction of the worthy Madame de Tourvel with lizard eyes and a Beelzebub leer, Colin Firth is the perfect gentleman: charming, guileless, almost bland. Where Glenn Close, as the Marquise de Merteuil, sat icily spinning a web to deflower the teenage virgin Cécile, Annette Bening gurgles with youthful mischief. They may be monsters in their actions, but Forman treats them with loving kindness.

Such kindness nips much potential drama in the bud: these seductions seem just youthful indiscretions. At first Bening (then with few film appearances to her name) appears like a creature on fire, eyes and smile blazing. But her character fails to grow or darken; by the end, she has smiled ten times too often. Valmont, the drawing-room darling, needs a few dark strokes too, though if Firth's pursuit of Madame de Tourvel lacks conviction, the trouble lies more with Meg Tilly: an intriguing presence, but not always adept at sinking herself into a role.

The late Fabia Drake makes the rafters ring with her amusing portrayal of Madame de Rosemonde, Valmont's aged aunt; elsewhere Jean-Claude Carrière's script seems strangely low in the wit and elegance such characters deserve. As for Forman, he sculpts individual moments with great finesse, yet still seems much as he was in *Amadeus*: a gifted director whose personality gets lost as the budgets soar. *Valmont*, then, proves a mixed blessing: a sumptuous treat for the eyes, a quiet disappointment for the mind.

Meg Tilly also appears in the entertaining, though hardly satisfactory **The Two Jakes** (15, ICA), flashing hooded eyes as a classic Hollywood femme fatale of the Forties. This is the long-planned sequel to *Chinatown*, which entranced in the mid-Seventies with its bizarre mix of murder, sex and duplicity in pre-war Los Angeles. Yet precise memories of even the best films fade, and many audiences will be struggling to link up the two stories. As Jack Nicholson wearily observes, reprising his character of private eye Jake Gittes, "It was a long time ago."

Nicholson also directs: a job once slated for scriptwriter Robert Towne. There are some odd shots (who else has given us a camera's eye view from inside a golf-course hole?); but most of the director's energy seems taken with assembling mood and decor. As a thriller, *The Two Jakes* proves impossible to follow; as an exercise in retro style, it glows with sullen beauty. Forties suits, ties, two-tone shoes: everything is in place, bathed in hard-edged gloom. More to the point are the pylons, the oil derricks and the wire recorder used to catch incriminating evidence: we are almost given a documentary on its workings.

Harvey Keitel plays the other Jake, a real-estate developer caught in a *crime passionel*; Madeleine Stowe is a suspiciously gleeful widow. The plot gets nowhere sensible, but there are three earthquake tremors, quirks galore and period songs. Something for everyone, except those expecting another *Chinatown*.

Perilously beautiful costume drama: Annette Bening, gurgling with mischief as the Marquise de Merteuil in Milos Forman's *Valmont*

"Goddamned adrenalin junkies", mutters the poor woman who passes as the love interest in **Point Break** (15, Odeon West End), Hollywood's latest macho beanfeast. But what can the girl expect? Thrill-seekers populate the film: there is surfing, sky diving, bank shoot-ups, chases. Thrill-seekers made the film: *Terminator* maestro James Cameron served as executive producer, and squeezed all the sensitivity from his talented director, Kathryn Bigelow.

A quartet of bank robbers, the Ex-Presidents, fall under FBI surveillance. Beneath the masks of Reagan, LBJ, Carter and Ford lie Californian surfers: the tan line on a bare behind exposed in a bank's security video apparently says it all. So Keanu Reeves, boringly cocky FBI agent, goes undercover, and off the film lurches into narrative gobbledegook, surfing, and the spiritual utterances of a tanned guru (Patrick Swayze).

Most of America's new black cinema has been too busy cultivating a furrowed brow to bother with jokes. **Hangin' with the Homeboys** (15, Cannon Haymarket) is the exception: a bouncy, optimistic comedy-drama from young Puerto Rican director Joseph B. Vasquez, following the fortunes of four South Bronx "homeboys" in search of Friday night fun.

Fun proves elusive. They get booted from a party, crash their car, and lose assorted illusions about women and their own identities. There are some overly broad, comic-strip strokes, but also much pleasure in the dialogue and sharp performances from Doug E. Doug and Mario Joyner.

More news from abroad. In K2 (15, Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue, MGM Trocadero), Patrick Meyer's theatrical two-hander about mountaineers trapped on a Himalayan ice ledge is pumped up into a handsome but redundant movie, with an expanded cast chattering away at the highest altitudes. The leads (Michael Biehn, Matt Craven) are low on star wattage; director Franc Roddam obviously knew the mountain was going to get the best reviews.

Then comes **Switch** (15, Odeon West End): one more nail in the coffin of Blake Edwards, who once made audiences laugh and shiver (think of *The Pink Panther* or *Experiment in Terror*). In his latest examination of the male sex drive, a chauvinist pig of the most snorting kind, killed by his victims, returns to earth as a woman. Enter Ellen Barkin, mugging mercilessly, spewing out male body language while tottering on high heels. If this were on television, you *would* switch.

BRIEFING

Nothing sacred?

FOR the first time, a film crew has been allowed into Lenin's office in the Kremlin. The film, *Stalin*, directed by Ivan Passer for Home Box Office, began production in Moscow but then moved to Budapest after the coup against Gorbachov. Subsequently, Russian officials close to Boris Yeltsin invited them back.

Stalin is played by Robert Duvall and Lenin by Maximilian Schell, with Joan Plowright cast as the mother of Stalin's first wife. Schell, incidentally, claims that he walked through Moscow's GUM department store in full Lenin make-up without being recognised – though that, of course, may say something about the quality of the make-up.

Growing old

A NEW phase in the plan to return Brighton's Regency splendours to their former glory is underway. Work began this week on the Royal Pavilion gardens, aiming to restore their 1820s appearance. John Nash, the architect of the Royal Pavilion (which has now emerged from its own £10 million restoration), conceived of the pavilion and its gardens as a unity. Much research has recently been done by the horticulture historians in an attempt to ascertain which species of plants would have been stocked in the gardens during George IV's time.

Last chance...

AFTER John Lee Hooker's sensational return to the limelight, the latest blues veteran to come in from the cold is Buddy Guy. Seen in typically barnstorming mode at Eric Clapton's Albert Hall concerts earlier in the year, the effusive and influential 55-year-old guitarist from Chicago now boasts an appeal that extends well beyond the blues purists. Final dates of his tour are: Birmingham Town Hall (021-236 2392) tonight; Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061-834 0943) tomorrow; Edinburgh Playhouse (031-557 2590) Saturday; and Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow (041-332 6633) Sunday.

ARTS REVIEWS
Theatre, Dance and the St Petersburg Philharmonic

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Ladies to the last

Strauss: Four Last Songs/13 Lieder. Te Kanawa/Solti/Vienna Phil. Decca 430 511-2.
Mahler: Symphony No 6/Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen. Norman/Haitink/Berlin Phil. Philips 426 257-2 (2 discs).
Mahler: Symphony No 1 Berlin Phil/Abbado DG 431 769-2.
Mahler: Symphony No 1 Chicago SO/Tennstedt. EMI CDC 7 54217 2.

The meeting of Sir Georg Solti, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Strauss's *Four Last Songs* may seem improbable, but it is by no means an unhappy one. Solti's robust, even gusty way with Strauss's opulent score has a bracing effect on Te Kanawa's Straussian languor. Knocked into no uncertain rhythmic shape, the voice is liberated to be its true self, conveying the passing moods and seasons of these songs: the wonder-filled, ecstatic breath of spring, for example, or summer's late laughter.

Every flicker of instrumentation glints out of Decca's characteristically clear, unsuffocating acoustic. With an ardent "Beim Schlafengehen" given muscle by a particularly sinewy solo violin, and with an apotheosis which sees Solti and Te Kanawa positively striding off into the sunset, this may not be one of the most spine-tingling *Four Last Songs* on disc, but it is certainly one of the most challenging.

Solti then turns pianist in 13 songs, including Strauss's very last "Malven". As one might expect, he is a lively partner in dialogue. Te Kanawa's voice is not always his equal in either strength or sophistication.

By contrast, Bernard Haitink seems to have a moderating effect on Jessye Norman in her Mahler *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*. The voice is given time and space enough for a slow, deeply introspective reading which is nevertheless closely detailed and finely scaled. Norman frames the songs of love and loss with a dirge-like lament and a funeral march of a finale; few visions strike such terror in the heart as her "Ich hab' ein glühend Messer".

Jessye Norman: deeply introspective Mahler

Haitink's Mahler Six is a model of clarity: clarity of playing, of recording and, above all, clarity of insight into the fact that this is Mahler's pivot work *par excellence*. The balance of texture and tempo which Haitink brings to the work expresses its own emotional balance, poised between a leaning back into nostalgia and a dizzying momentum into the hurtle of hell which is its future. The backward glances are of the lightest, the most elusive: a near Brucknerian chastity for the little wind chorale, bows barely touching strings for the Andante's melody.

The sheer imagination and skill of the same Berlin players marks out a new Mahler 1 from Claudio Abbado. Both his, and Tennstedt's new recording with the Chicago Symphony, are live performances; but the Abbado has a presence which the Tennstedt lacks. As the *Fahrenden Gesellen* songs echo over into the symphony, Abbado creates a sense of ecstatic simplicity in the light, springing tread of the violins and the particular purity of the woodwind; and his refulgent light at climax points makes Tennstedt's players sound coarse by comparison.

Where Abbado conjures the immediate sensation of spring in the bristling staccato and tender trio of the second movement, Tennstedt seems to view the scene from an already distanced memory. With Abbado, we are with Mahler the child, watching the mystic rites of Pan: with Tennstedt we are already looking back, watching sweetness turn to sentiment and parody carry with it both the weight and the bite of bitterness.

HILARY FINCH

ART MARKET

Right way to a family fortune

A proposed European law would drastically alter the fortunes of artists' heirs, but at what cost? **Sarah Jane Checkland** reports

The fine art world is about to be turned upside-down, if the bureaucrats in Brussels get their way. As part of its efforts to harmonise copyright law, the European Commission is today discussing the principle of *droite de suite*. It is a concept, unknown in Britain, whereby whenever an art work is sold, royalties are due to the artist or his or her estate.

Droite de suite already operates in Germany and France – where, following the rule that descendants are allowed to collect three per cent, FFr9 million (£920,000) was paid to Picasso's heirs in 1989, following the sale of his painting *Les Noces de Pierrette* by the Paris auctioneers Binoche Godeau. Other European countries with such legislation include Belgium, Italy and Denmark.

But as Robin Fry, an art law specialist, points out in *The Art Newspaper*, many of these countries have either failed to implement the legislation, or the royalty payments are negligible. This week's hearing is expected to result in a draft directive, followed by a full Council directive, and then possibly a new European law.

But, as John Sankey, secretary of the Society of London Art Dealers, says, how does one define "artist" for the purpose of setting up a payments system? "How do you keep track of it all?" he asks. In practice, it will not be the deserving garret-dwellers who will benefit, but those artists who have already made their fortune. Or it will be "heirs": another term difficult to define.

Pablo Picasso: his heirs have set a precedent

The French law was originally designed to assist the benighted widows of artists after the first world war. But one of its main beneficiaries in recent years has been Jean Fabris, who is the heir of Maurice Utrillo despite having a tenuous connection with the artist.

He met Utrillo's widow, Lucie Valore, in 1960 when she was in her eighties and he was a radio producer, soon becoming her "devoted secretary". After her death he became sole legatee, entrusted by Valore with "perpetuating my memory and that of my Utrillo".

Fabris has assiduously pursued London and Paris auctioneers through the courts for reproducing works by Utrillo without obtaining his permission. In his case against the Paris auctioneer Guy Loudmer, for example, the courts decided against Fabris, and an appeal court upheld this ruling in March 1989. But Fabris won a separate case later that year, when his opponents were Sotheby's and Christie's – though that decision has also been referred to the Court of Appeal in Versailles.

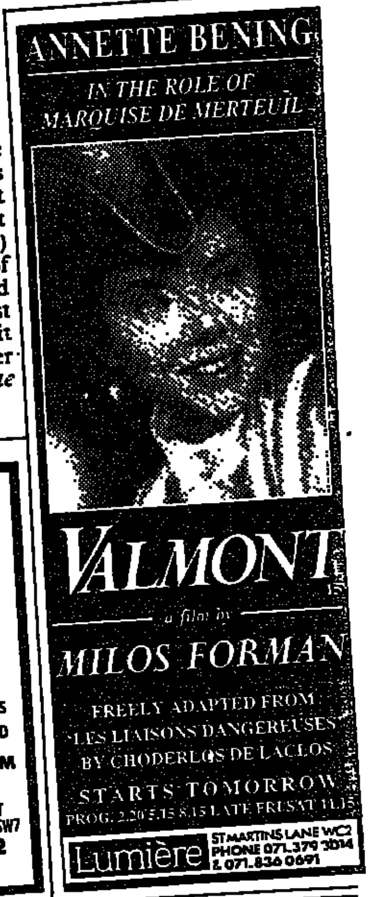
However, the biggest argument against *droite de suite* is that it would be a nightmare to administer, were it enshrined in European law. Unlike music or literature that is subject to copyright, art works often change hands surreptitiously, with no official record of the transfer. "Does it apply to shop sales, private transactions, or what?" Sankey asks.

Each country that has established *droite de suite*, he maintains, has had to set up a quango to run it. "The cost of administration swallows up the income."

There is also the fear that resale royalties would frighten away the contemporary art market to countries where it does not apply. As things stand, lawyers are already milking the differences in *droite de suite* law within Europe. That is demonstrated by the Beuys case, in which the widow of the German conceptual artist Joseph Beuys is suing Christie's for refusing to give her a cut in their sale of three Beuys sculptures. Although the sale took place in London, in 1989, the case is being tried in Düsseldorf, because the *droite de suite* law applies in Germany but not here. Mrs Beuys bases her claim on the fact that her husband was a German national.

So far, Britain has forcefully rejected the idea of *droite de suite*. It was turned down both by the Whitford Committee report on copyright of 1977, and by the Society of London Art Dealers.

In June this year, the Federation International des Diffuseurs d'Oeuvres d'Art Originales (representing art dealers throughout the EC) condemned the concept of *droite de suite*. It suggested that if harmonisation must take place on this subject, it should result in the utter abolition of the *droite de suite* where it already exists.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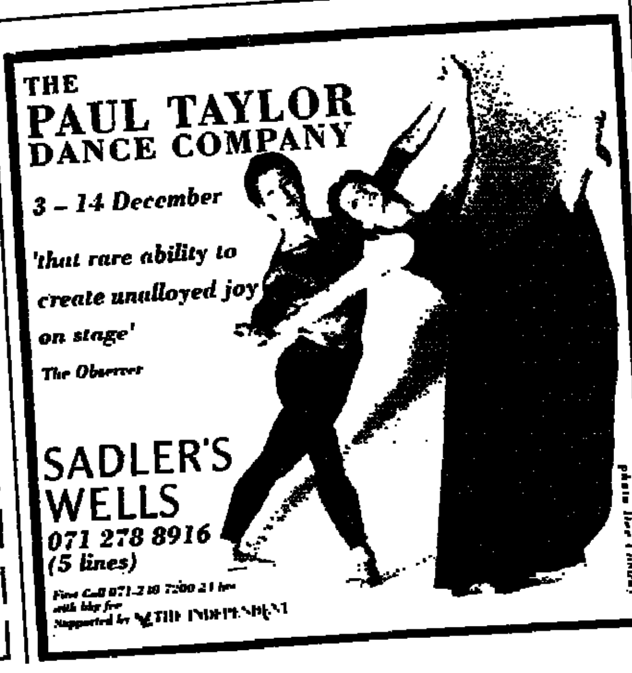
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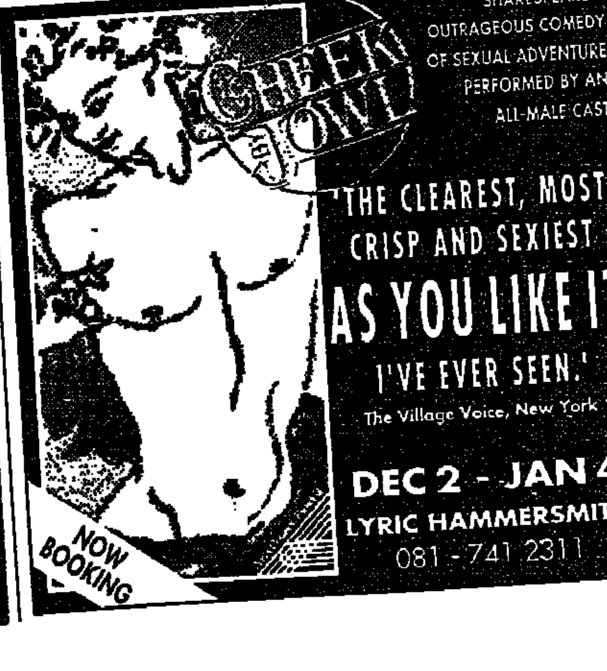
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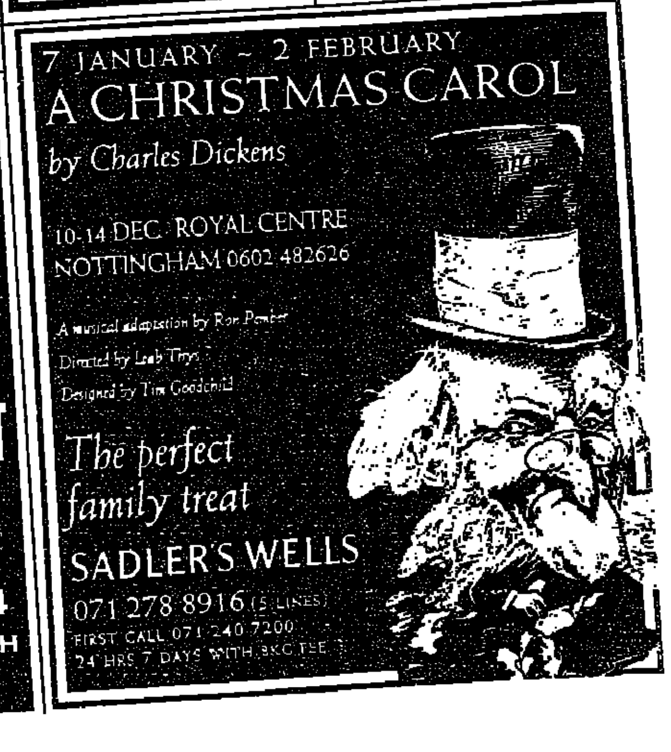


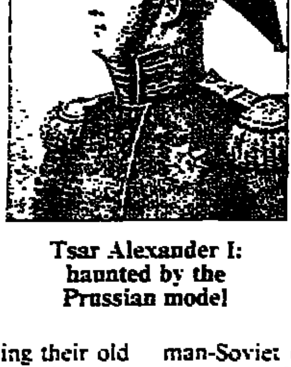
Russia resumes German affair

Roger Boyes on the wary dance as Boris Yeltsin comes to Bonn

Tsar Alexander I offered to reward a Russian general who had distinguished himself by crushing a Caucasian revolt. "Sire," barked the soldier, "I ask only one thing — to be made a German."

Germans like that story and it is worth recalling as Boris Yeltsin, Russia's president, arrives in Bonn. The complex relationship — part fear, part unrequited love — between Germans and Russians is at the heart of the new Europe. If the affair sours then the continent is in trouble.

For the Russians, the Germans have always been a puzzle. Either they see them as bloodthirsty beasts, the dominant caricature of the past 50 years, or they are the unbending governesses Tolstoy depicted. For some time now the shadow of the beast has been receding. Joint German-Soviet schoolbook commissions and conferences of historians have been trying to redress the balance. The Russians' overdue denunciation of the Nazi-Soviet pact and new candour about some of Stalin's crimes, such as the Katyn forest massacre have reduced the official hatred. The Russians are reaching back to their 19th-century image of the German, who was respected for his precision, hard work, and organisational skill. Their mockery of the German character is still there but, as before the revolution, it pokes gentle fun at Prussian pedantry, and obedience to authority. The Germans, too, are shedding their old fear of Russia. The generation that dwelt on Red Army brutality is dying out, while Mikhail Gorbachov's ready acceptance of German reunification has given the young an altogether more sympathetic view of Russia.



Tsar Alexander I: haunted by the Prussian model

The stage is now set for a new understanding. Germany, in its governess role, will modernise Russia, teaching it capitalist skills and providing much of the capital. It will also champion Russia in the European Community. In return, Russia will supply much needed raw materials and energy. Having declared Russian sovereignty over mineral deposits on its territory, Mr Yeltsin can honour his side of the deal.

The German mission to modernise Russia is not new. Its roots stretch back to the time of Peter the Great and though interrupted several times has never completely disappeared. There is a Russian saying: "Next to a church, there is a priest. Next to a machine, there is a German." The Germans helped to build and finance the Soviet railway system before the first world war. Even Stalin was quick to seize German scientists to work on missile projects after the war.

St Petersburg best illustrates the renewed attitude. As Leningrad it suffered terrible deprivation under siege by Hitler's troops. Last year, responding to reports of winter famine, the Germans poured food aid into the city, which was somewhat grudgingly accepted. Now, the democratically elected mayor of St Petersburg, Anatoly Sobchak, is talking of setting up a ring of German farm settlements around the city to help feed the people. Volga Germans, first invited to Russia by Empress Catherine and then later deported to Soviet central Asia by Stalin, may return to fulfill the task so inadequately performed by home-bred collective farmers.

From the point of view of central Europeans this newly discovered intimacy contains dangers. Of course, nobody wants Germany and Russia to be at war, but many are nervous that large-scale German investment will be switched from their region to the Russian federation. German banks are already well ahead of other investors. They have lent some $22 billion (£12 billion) to the Soviet Union compared to British banks' $4 billion (£2.2 billion) and the huge Soviet market looks very attractive to German companies. If German investment does switch it will be a body blow to market reform in the region. A year ago Poles and Czechs were worried that the Germans would buy up their privatised industry. Now they are worried that they will not. Poland has another reason to fear a love affair between Russia and Germany. History is littered with examples of secret German-Soviet cooperation that has threatened the Poles: the Treaty of Rapallo in 1922 led to clandestine military cooperation, while the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939 effectively carved up their country — not exactly reassuring landmarks seen from Warsaw.

The Poles are worried about a scheme to repopulate Kaliningrad (the old East Prussian capital of Koenigsberg) with ethnic Germans and revive the area with German investment. Until 1945 Koenigsberg was an unmistakably German city. But in the last phase of the war, the Russians stormed the city, renamed it and absorbed it into the Russian federation. Now, however, it is sandwiched between two foreign states — newly independent Lithuania and Poland and is cut off from Russia.

Many Germans are asking what connects this historically German city and region to Russia at all. This kind of discussion naturally unsettles the Poles. If this northern stretch of East Prussia is to return, in effect, to the Germans, what about the other strip of East Prussia which is on Polish terrain? And if Japan is to get back the Kuril Islands, what is to stop Germany receiving Koenigsberg? That would put Poland's eastern borders in doubt.

"Let the Germans and Russians consummate their elephants' wedding," said a Polish commentator the other day. "But they must be careful where they put their feet."

Detainees Terry Waite and John Bunyan share a mastery of plain English, **Philip Howard** says

Progress of a pilgrim

John Bunyan was a good talisman for Terry Waite in his dark dungeon. When he received that postcard out of the blue, addressed to "Terry Waite, Hezbollah, Beirut", he said to it, with the rustic simplicity that is one of Bunyan's peculiar charms: "My word, Bunyan, you're a lucky fellow. You've got a window out of which you can look, see the sky, and here am I in a dark room."

It is exactly the kind of simple English that Bunyan used. Nobody, except perhaps Homer, gave such perfect description as Bunyan by the use of plain words. Bunyan's English was tinker's and soldier's and preacher's English. It is the English of the Bible, of the Ironsides and of the village green. With the passage of time, Terry Waite's English is the English of the pub and the barrack room and the television chat show. Both men are great communicators, hitting populist emotions with deceptively plain language.

Bunyan said, disingenuously: "I have not for these things fished in other men's waters; my Bible and Concordance are my only library in my writing." But in fact his work is backed by wide reading of medieval pulpit literature, Milton, Reformation theology by Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin, and the rest of the lads, and Spenser's *Faerie Queene*.

Spenser wrote for the literati at Elizabeth's court. Bunyan composed a spiritual allegory, cutting out the intellectual frills, for God's humblest Christians. *The Pilgrims' Progress*, with its rhythmic, sonorous syntax, clothed in images from folklore and the Bible, is one of the most influential books in English. It changed not just the masses, but Daniel Defoe and the course of English literature. Bunyan came into English history and literature by a side door, but he created a draught that still blows.

There are other similarities between Terry Waite and Bunyan, apart from the accident of a postcard. Both came from humble backgrounds (Waite's father was a policeman, Bunyan's a tinker or brazier), both were self-educated, and both had chips on their shoulders about it. Both were unlicensed preachers; that is what Bunyan kept on being locked up for. Both had a powerful sense of their own righteousness, verging on sanctimoniousness, and both tended not to follow advice.

Both had uneasy official posts: Terry Waite as roving envoy to the Archbishop of Canterbury; Bunyan, in the last year of his life, as chaplain to the Lord Mayor of London. The difference is that Bunyan's genius lay in the written word; Terry Waite's lies in the press conference, extemporary speech and television show. The characters and scenes that Bunyan created have become archetypes of English literature and myth. Mr Valiant is a more persuasive hero than Henry V, and Mr Fearing a more realistic coward than Pistol.

Bunyan knew what made the man in the street tick, without the wit and ambiguity of an intellectual. Now Giant Despair had a wife, and her name was Diffidence. And their place, called Doubting Castle, and Mr Cruelty ("hanging is too good for him") are part of our national stock of allegory.

The Pilgrim's Progress still has more power to move than most books. So he passed over, and the trumpets sounded for him on the other side, as we are sounding them for Terry Waite who has come home.

What makes a place civilised?

Bernard Levin hunts for a land with the magic ingredients

Some time ago, discussing the dramatic changes taking place in the two great poles of our time and place, I used the words "... before South Africa can be classified as a wholly civilised nation ..." A reader, saying that she had been sufficiently intrigued to respond, said — well, let her speak in her own words:

> *My query is — which nation in the world today could earn such a classification? Which led me on to wonder how you would construct a hierarchy of the criteria of being "civilised". I thought this might provoke an interesting debate in the columns of* The Times ...

And so it might, but before it does I would like to have a go myself.

Let us begin with freedom, and even as I use the word I am conscious of the ambiguities that surround it. I have just looked up the famous "Four Freedoms" speech of Roosevelt; the touching naiveté in it is almost unpleasantly embarrassing:

> *... In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.*
>
> *The first is freedom of speech and expression, everywhere in the world.*
>
> *The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way everywhere in the world.*
>
> *The third is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants, everywhere in the world.*
>
> *The fourth is freedom from fear — which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbour, anywhere in the world.*
>
> *That is no vision of a distant millenium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation.*

That speech was made when the second world war had been raging for 16 months; the Blitz was at its height. Hitler's invasion of Russia was six months away, and Pearl Harbour twelve. If Roosevelt's programme was long out of date when he propounded it, it was nothing but a macabre echo four-and-a-half years later, when the H-bomb blew away every illusion, and 80,000 people.

"Everywhere in the world"; it is like a mantra, only less useful. But do not blame Roosevelt; realists, in those days, were very rare, and invariably condemned as cynics. Slowly, reality broke in. If you take out the "everywhere in the world", and look at what remains, you will find that a fairly small number of Western nations have lived up to the second precept for a short time: the rest is silence. No country permits freedom of speech and expression; if you do not believe me, ask Lady Birdwood. No country is without its poor. No country is without fear of aggression or the means of launching it. From time to time, here and there, complete freedom of worship has been allowed; and why? Because it does not touch the tender parts of the state; how many years from now will there be restrictions on some Muslim worship in Britain? My guess is seven.

Very well, these freedoms, if they are the pillars of civilisation, are very weak pillars. In most Western countries most people can enjoy them most of the time (good news — Charles Humana is at work on a new edition of his *World Human Rights Guide*, to be published next year and to be consistently looted by me), and such countries would claim to be truly civilised, basing their claim on freedom alone.

But wait. Was Periclean Athens civilised? Of course; perhaps the greatest civilisation in history. Ah, but it rested on a base of slaves, so civilisation cannot be defined by freedom, since the slaves of Athens conspicuously lacked it; there goes the civilisation of civilised Europe, founded as it is on the structure of freedom, however sturdy or wonky. And what about the ancient Kingdom of Tibet, one of the most civilised and wonderful the Earth has seen (which is precisely why the barbarian communists of China had to destroy it); its people had no such upstart notions. And the Incas? And Medici Florence?

We shift our ground. It is culture that denotes civilisation, not freedom. But how do we define culture? Not just artefacts, surely; that is far too narrow a test, and not only because a true civilised culture must — must it not? — exclude evil.

It is easy to see that, isn't it? Look at the "art" produced under Stalin and Hitler; the only creations that could be called art were those that were banned or hidden. We've proved it, hurrah. But wait again. As far as I know, Japanese art, the most delicate and pure, continued to be created throughout the second world war, while other Japanese were delicately and purely disembowelling prisoners of war. Can a culture be civilised and uncivilised at the same time? This is getting very difficult, but it was supposed to be.

Come back to Athens for a moment. Is it possible to call civilised a society that has such civilised people as — well, you and me, say — knowing that there is a huge majority out there doing nothing but listening to the most simian music and eating potato crisps? Can we, that is, have bi-civilised countries?

And what about nations that are as close as mortals can get to eradicating poverty and hunger and random violence and dirt and drunkenness, but are boring, such as Sweden? No, that will not do; the Swedes are drunk all the time, so it will have to be Switzerland. Well, the Swiss are not drunk; but if you want me to announce that Switzerland is the most civilised country in the world I shall shrink from the task.

Let us try happiness: in which country is the greatest proportion of its people happy? By this test we would probably come up with somewhere like Botswana. There is nothing wrong with Botswana, apart from the fact that I have no idea where it is, but although I will cheer for this supposedly joyous place, I cannot award it the palm.

Nor France, though a powerful case can be made for her. She knows how to cook, to eat and to drink; she excels in the *arts ménagers*; she probably has the best small talk of any contestant, and her country assuredly is beautiful. But her chances of the prize evaporated gradually over the years; she became bad-tempered, the one thing she never was. And how could you give anything *but a raspberry to a country that* could put up that hideous glass pyramid?

I think the answer is Italy, I really do. Much have I travelled in the world of gold, but I do not think I know of a place that demonstrates the qualities of civilisation so strongly. We must discard the shallow image of the charming but hopeless Italian; her recent economic record belies it at once. Yet the Italians, as they have prospered, have not forgotten that the world is a ridiculous place, and that it is better to laugh with the ridicule than try to change it. It is a country that takes its religion seriously but not intolerantly, which has the wisdom her peasants never lost, which has a sharp eye for design, some very good newspapers, a living art as well as an ancient one. True, she has no *haute cuisine*, but her *basse cuisine* is delicious, and she despises her politicians for the right reason: not that they are crooked (though they are), but that they are noisy. She earns a very black mark for letting Venice rot.

And then, look at her past! Look at the stupendous riches of the art that has been created here; look at the love and respect with which she displays her greatest treasure, the opera; look at, indeed, civilisation, and as you look, and wherever you look, you will see how many civilisations have come together to make this boot-shaped place what it is: beautiful, content, good-hearted, sensible, proud of her past, and with every right to be, in a word: civilised.

I told you I wanted to start a hare, and I hope I have. *Après moi le déluge.*

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

The day before yesterday, I exclusively revealed how Conservative backbencher Sir Shortley Peverill had attempted to contact Mr Norman Fowler in a last-ditch bid to urge him to stand for the party leadership.

Our story now moves to Tuesday November 20, 1990. The time is just before 5.30pm. Politicians and journalists are packed into the committee corridor of the House of Commons awaiting the outcome of the first ballot. But Sir Shortley has grown convinced that neither Thatcher nor Heseltine will offer him a position in government. After 11 years at the helm, Thatcher has addressed a total of just 14 words to him. The first six were immensely encouraging, the remaining eight a bitter disappointment. At a Conservative fund-raising Christmas party in 1986, she had spotted him in the distance. "Hello! Lovely to see you again," she had yelled across the room. He still remembers the extraordinary *frisson* he felt at that moment. But then she ruined it all by adding: "So sorry, I thought you were Jim Callaghan."

His contact with Heseltine had proved scarcely more fruitful. After an hour canvassing alongside Sir Shortley at the last general election, Heseltine had turned to him and beaming wildly, had said: "Hello. My name's Michael Heseltine and I'm asking you to support your Tory candidate next *Thursday*."

"B-b-but I *am* the Tory candidate," Sir Shortley had protested, but Heseltine had already moved on.

So now Sir Shortley is in a panic. With only seconds to go until the final count, Norman Fowler is still playing his cards very close to his chest. Find Fowler, he tells himself. Scuttling across Westminster Green, he is waylaid by a camera crew. "Could you give us your views into this microphone for a minute or two?" He breathes a sigh of contentment. Fowler can wait, he tells himself: if the nation wishes to hear the views of Peverill, then hear them they will.

"'Taking all in all, and at a particularly difficult time, if I might say so, for the party and the country as a whole, I can only say that I for one... "

"Cut!" shouts the man in the headphones. "You can push off now, mate — Mellor's arrived and we've got the sound just perfect for him. Cheers, mate."

Thirty seconds later, the result of the first ballot is declared. Within minutes, Mrs Thatcher has descended the steps of the British embassy in Paris to announce her intention of standing again. For the next 39 hours, ministers and backbenchers will be gathering in corners, to gossip, to fret, to prevaricate and to plot. Top-level breakfast meetings are held at all times of day and night. Though Sir Shortley has no one he can think of to meet, he stays at the hub of *things by cooking himself a fried* egg and sausage every hour, on the hour, and eating it with Radio 4 news at full volume.

Rumour is rife. Through the backbench network, Sir Shortley has heard that Wakeham has met Gummer, who thinks that Patten believes with Waldegrave that, as Howard understands it, Hurd had a word with Lamont who told him that Garel-Jones knew that Clarke and Younger had been assured by Rifkind of Wakeham's meetings with Gummer. Sir Shortley writes down this gossip in his political diary. It is the very first entry he has made since deciding to keep a diary soon after the 1970 election: never before has he felt so close to the centre of national events. "Furthermore," he records, "I hear on good authority that Tristan, Garel and Jones are inseparable. Nowadays, one cannot mention one without mentioning the other two in the same breath."

Thatcher resigns; Hurd and Major join the contest; Major wins. To his relief, Sir Shortley remembers the links he formed with Major in the members' tearoom back in '79. Major, a new boy, had been sitting in his chair. Sir Shortley had asked him to move. "Very well," Major had replied.

Sir Shortley decides to write Major a short congratulatory note, reminding him of their chance meeting. With shared experiences such as that, concludes Sir Shortley, a ministerial post will soon be his for the asking.

THE TIMES DIARY

Europe cross parties unite

EVEN as John Major was speaking in the European debate yesterday some leading members of the Tory establishment were planning a new anti-federalist pressure group. They hope this will bring together Margaret Thatcher, David Owen and Labour's Peter Shore in a cross-party alliance. It will be set up by the new year to look critically at legislation brought to the Commons in the wake of the Maastricht summit, and to monitor directives from the European Commission.

The Duke of Devonshire leads a group of rich backers who have emerged after the eclipse of the Bruges Group as a campaigning force to pledge financial support to the embryonic organisation. There will be a mass membership group and a business and academic arm, working alongside each other from a suite of offices in London. An office may also be opened in Brussels.

Tories with close links to Downing Street are involved but their identities will not be disclosed until after Maastricht. While the Bruges Group, with Mrs Thatcher as its president, became closely associated with the Tory right, the new group will have more widespread all-party support. Dr David Owen has been asked to play a leading role. Mrs Thatcher and Norman Tebbit are expected to join alongside Peter Shore, Labour's leading Euro-sceptic, and economists such as Tim Congdon.

The group will devise a new economic vision for Europe under the heading, "economically interdependent, politically independent". The new organisation is hoping to use *Hatfield House*, owned by the Marquess of Salisbury, for an inaugural dinner after Maastricht. There is debate over whether Mrs Thatcher should be the first speaker to address the guests. If she does so it will be in the same room in which Elizabeth I convened her first council of ministers on becoming Queen in 1558.

● *With bizarre timing, five Tory MPs flew to the European parliament at Strasbourg yesterday for a two-day, "fact-finding" visit. Andrew MacKay, Jerry Hayes, Emma Nicholson, John Watts and Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes arranged the trip in the summer. MacKay says: "Who would have thought when we made the arrangements that we would be in the right place at the right time." The Tory whips do not think they are.*

Oppressed corps

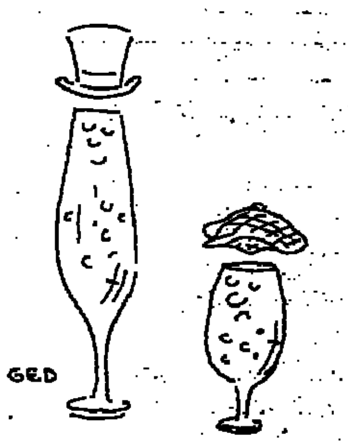
ONE of the most pressing tasks facing Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister again, will be to ensure that the international Soviet press corps is paid every month. Some journalists in London have had to sell their cars because of the shortage of hard currency in Moscow.

Visitors from Moscow are being asked to come to London with suitcases filled with cash. Vsevolod Shishkovsky, Soviet television's bureau chief in London, says: "It is now virtually impossible to transfer hard currency from Moscow to London. I have £7,000 in the bank, but with rent for the flat and petrol to pay that will not last long. *Only* the other week someone from Moscow brought us £15,000."

Journalists on *Pravda* are worst off because they have cut their ties with the Soviet Communist party. Unless things improve they could all be returning home.

Fizz goes flat

LOVE is better than wine, says the Bible, but is champagne better than fizzy white wine? The question was put to the test last week when a panel of four masters of wine tasted ten champagnes, and ten sparkling wines. They picked the champagnes every time.



"Champagne has that indefinable thing called class," says Jan Critchley-Salmonson, the master taster. "Good champagne has bottle age, which was clearly identifiable."

Premier roast

JOHN MAJOR likes a fry-up for breakfast at roadside "caffs", but when the prime minister is at Chequers he prefers a kipper or poached eggs. Flt Sgt Alan Lavender, the head chef at Chequers for six years, has revealed that since Major became the host, traditional English cooking has gone to the top of the menu. "We say on the menu, Welsh lamb or Scottish beef, and Chequers strawberries or Chequers raspberries," says Lavender in the latest issue of *Caterer and Hotelkeeper*.

The only concession to foreign eating habits is serving the cheese course before the desserts. Home-made stilton soup followed by a roast dinner is Major's favourite.

"Mrs Major always makes a point of coming down to the kitchens to say thank you," Lavender says. Major has issued only two edicts for entertaining: no bones and no strong flavours.

Python meets Lama

NOW the SDP is no more, John Cleese has found a new cause to champion: Tibet. Cleese has returned from India, where he recorded a film with the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader. While Cleese's unmistakeable humour is to the fore, the Dalai Lama is determined not to be upstaged in the video.

Tim Nunn, of the Tibet support group, says: "The Dalai Lama has an infectious smile and sense of humour." The film will be broadcast next year.

● *Endless verbal bouquets have been heaped on the BBC World Service by the freed hostages. But yesterday Barbara Myers, a presenter of the* Outlook *programme, received a real one: a dozen red roses. They came from Terry Waite, delivered by his cousin John, an occasional World Service presenter. John says: "Barbara is like Vera Lynn to the hostages. They all love her beautiful voice."*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Terry Waite has had his moment of glory. His return to Britain on Tuesday and his masterful televised speech at RAF Lyneham were greeted with a 600-megawatt surge in electricity demand, a sigh of national emotion usually associated with royal weddings and cup finals. But there is a question mark over this triumph which two days of unrestrained adulation cannot banish.

For nearly five years the media has voluntarily censured its references to Terry Waite. It refused to publish or broadcast material concerning his links with the Irangate conspirators which might have put his life in greater danger. The public was offered only a selective version of events. Mr Waite's return to freedom has burst the journalistic dam. The public may be taken aback by what it now learns.

Irangate was an American conspiracy in the mid-1980s to sell weapons to Iran at inflated prices, passing the profits to right-wing guerrillas in Nicaragua. In return, step by step with this traffic, Iran was to instruct its Shia militia proxies in Lebanon (known by the generic name Hezbollah) gradually to release American hostages.

The conspiracy was contrary to American and international law and has been the subject of extensive criminal proceedings. It may well have prolonged the horrific Iran-Iraq war. Even within Lebanon, this traffic was contrary to morality and sound policy since it bartered with hostages, thus rewarding and therefore encouraging hostage-taking. Certainly, hostage releases associated with Mr Waite's name were contemporaneous with the seizing of new ones. The evil went on; he too was its victim.

At the heart of this traffic was Colonel Oliver North, an officer of the US National Security Council. He has admitted using Terry Waite as a "crucial" element in his arrangements. For instance in 1985 and 1986 Colonel North arranged the secret sale of arms to Iran to buy freedom for two American hostages, Benjamin Weir and Father Lawrence Jenco. Disclosure of the real reason for their release would have exploded the conspiracy: there had to be a story to tell the world.

With Mr Waite on the scene — or brought there at short notice — their release could be represented to an admiring Western public as the result of his humanitarian efforts. It must now be said that this was merely a cover story. Apart from the Irangate conspirators, the one person who surely must have known at the time that their release was not due to his efforts was Mr Waite himself. Father Jenco has now also admitted that Mr Waite had nothing to do with his freedom. Mr Waite clearly knew Colonel North: they met, according to the BBC's *Panorama* programme, at least 20 times. The colonel even visited Lambeth Palace and was present at a meeting with the archbishop. In the Middle East, Mr Waite accepted American transport and communications, and kept in touch with American contacts.

When details of the Irangate guns-for-hostages deal first started to become public at the end of 1986, however, Mr Waite declared himself "astonished". How much did he already know, or how much should he have suspected? At the time of their release, why *did* he think the hostages were being freed, and why *did* he allow their release to be attributed publicly to his own intervention, if he knew this was not so? Was he simply duped by Colonel North? Was he just carried away? Were others in the church, in Britain or the United States, even more closely implicated with Irangate than he was? And had the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr (now Lord) Runcie, completely lost control of Mr Waite's activities?

On the last point, Lord Runcie has virtually admitted as much. He pleaded with Mr Waite not to return to Beirut, as did the British Foreign Office. Mr Waite was clearly told that his visit could do no good, while his capture would endanger others who might have to seek his release. The late John Lyttle, who spent his last years frantically trying to secure Mr Waite's release, was known to have become deeply depressed and exasperated by what he had discovered of his colleague's activities.

The answers to none of these questions can diminish Mr Waite's bravery, nor his fortitude in captivity. Mr Waite is said now to be anxious to clear the air, for his own sake and for that of the Church of England. The just and dignified way of meeting this need would be for the church to appoint an independent panel to investigate the facts, interview all available witnesses, and publish its findings.

MR SHEVARDNADZE'S RETURN

Few figures from the pre-coup Soviet leadership command as much respect in the outside world as Eduard Shevardnadze. In his bid to reassert his authority in the changed circumstances of the post-coup Soviet Union, President Gorbachev is gradually reassembling the liberal team with which he was once surrounded. Douglas Hurd rightly greeted the news of Mr Shevardnadze's return by praising his "judgment, experience and courage". Few will forget Mr Shevardnadze's warning of a putsch at the time of his resignation nearly a year ago, or his witness for democracy at the side of Boris Yeltsin when the prophecy came to pass. His action helped to turn the tide against the plotters.

More debatable is Mr Hurd's assertion that the reappointment of Mr Shevardnadze is proof of Soviet determination "to demonstrate continuity in foreign affairs in a transitional era". The Soviet Union is indeed in transition: it is unlikely to survive in its present form much longer. Economic, political and even military power is shifting to the republics. By bringing back Mr Shevardnadze, Mr Gorbachev is seeking to show he remains a force to be reckoned with in foreign affairs.

Before the coup, however, he was responsible for giving ground to conservative forces and allowing liberals like Mr Shevardnadze to be sidelined. Since the coup he has sought to manage the transition to a new form of democratic federation, but with such mixed results that he was barracked at yesterday's session of the Soviet parliament. One of his reasons for recalling Mr Shevardnadze was the prospect of a revolt at the Soviet foreign ministry over the disarray prevailing there.

Disarray prevails in all Soviet institutions as the old order crumbles. Mr Shevardnadze's appointment does little more than mask a growing void in Soviet foreign policy, from trade and arms control to regional policies. Meanwhile power shifts remorselessly to Mr Yeltsin. Today he will be received in Bonn, with most of the honours due to a head of state.

At least two of the hottest foreign policy issues — negotiations with Japan over the Kurile Islands, and the fate of the former East German leader Erich Honecker — are already in Mr Yeltsin's hands. Mr Shevardnadze's appointment may help Mr Gorbachev to restore dwindling Western confidence. But between them they cannot restore the Soviet Union as it was a year ago.

The republican leaderships are inexperienced in foreign affairs and ignorant of the ways of international diplomacy. Mr Shevardnadze can show them the ropes. And as he does so, it would be wise of the West to start dealing with the new leaderships on a range of issues: trade, food aid, and even in the case of republics such as the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, security and nuclear control.

Mr Shevardnadze is thought to favour a new form of federation in which Russia and other republics would exercise autonomy, with a co-ordinated foreign policy. But it is by no means sure even that degree of federalism will be retained. The longer the West postpones dealing directly with the republics, the greater will be the ground to be made up if and when the Soviet Union no longer exists even in name. The real transition the new Soviet foreign minister has to manage is one which may well result in the extinction of his very office.

SWAMPED BY SURVEYS

British Social Attitudes, whose eighth report is published today, is the Rolls-Royce of opinion surveys: wide, solid and designed to last, if a mite sedate. The road onto which it ventures is an increasingly crowded one. In the slow lane crawl the heavyweight studies of the more academic social researchers. Down the fast lane speed the streamlined polls carried out by Gallup, Harris, Mori and their kin for the media.

In and out of the traffic weave lesser vehicles designed for public relations purposes. The catering firm craving column inches need only commission a survey of school eating habits. A pressure group for, say, the disabled, can be certain that a survey will confirm that the public wants more spent on disability.

This year's volume shows that certain established trends continued. Under Margaret Thatcher, more and more people wanted public spending increased even if that meant higher taxes. That view has conditioned John Major's counter-revolution on the public services. Under Mrs Thatcher, however, it ceased to be the consensus view that the government must ensure full employment. So Mr Major has some chance of winning the election despite high and rising unemployment.

Support for the health service is maintained, so the prime minister has to show it is safe in his hands. Confidence in its performance has been eroded, so he is pressed to reform it. It is almost as if Britain's government is now conducted by opinion poll. The Opposition is no better.

The rise and rise of the survey is a post-war phenomenon. But surveys did have a historical forerunner. The speeches of pre-poll politicians are littered with references to "the country"; what it wants and does not want, what it will or will not stand for. The survey is today's equivalent.

Is this change for the better? Opinion polls are scientific. The major polling organisations take pains to get it right. The techniques of sampling are applied with scientific rigour. Where survey results are checkable against reality — for example in their predictions of election results — they have generally proved reliable. This is more than can be said for assessments of national sentiment by politicians, which tend hopelessly to confuse what public opinion is with what they would like it to be.

But more science means less art. Few polls measure salience, how important an issue is felt to be. In assenting to a pollster's question, the public may be reflecting its deeply held opinion. Or it may never have thought about the matter before, and never intend to think about it again. It may be knowledgeable about the subject, or it may be entirely ignorant. All surveys should be taken with a generous pinch of salt. Governments should treat them as they should treat experts: always on tap but never on top.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Implications of Waite 'bargain'

From Mr Lionel Bloch

Sir, We have every reason to rejoice at the release of Terry Waite and Tom Sutherland, but no reason at all to treat their return to freedom as a major event.

As you point out in your leader (November 19) "Nations left out in the cold will clutch at any inhumanity, any injustice, as a bargaining counter". But bargaining counters only exist because, in our weakness, we are prepared to bargain.

By using United Nations proxies, we have abandoned our commitment not to deal with terrorists and have played into the hands of the forces of injustice and inhumanity. In the eyes of Iran, hostage-taking by their surrogates has paid handsome dividends.

We may have succeeded in freeing a few innocents but by courting and supplicating unsavoury tyrants, we have paid a terrible price, not merely in terms of rehabilitating rogue regimes but, above all, in encouraging future hostage-taking.

Was there another way? Whilst an Entebbe solution might have been too risky, there was nothing preventing us from imposing drastic sanctions against those ultimately responsible. This alternative seems hardly to have been considered.

With former victims ready to forgive their tormentors and Western governments unwilling to take direct drastic steps to defend their nationals, we may soon witness another open season for hostage-taking.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BLOCH,
9 Wimpole Street, W1.

From Mrs Helga Harrison

Sir, Your report today compares Mr Waite's performance on arrival at RAF Lyneham with that of the other hostages, who, you say, "wilted" before the TV lights, somehow as if they were lesser men. May I suggest that this does them an injustice. To be reluctant to make a show of one's emotion hardly deserves to be regarded as "wilting" or less admirable.

I suspect there are others besides myself who were more deeply touched by Mr Sutherland's unhyped bubbling joy than Mr Waite's eloquent comparison of his tribulations with those of John Bunyan.

Yours truly,
HELGA HARRISON,
Courtlands, 3 Westfield Lane,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.
November 20.

From Mr Daniel Zinkin

Sir, Why do Mr Terry Waite and Professor Thomas Sutherland both thank Syria and Iran profusely for their efforts in procuring their own release? Why do they thank countries which not only harbour terrorist groups but in some cases support and even protect them? I am glad, however, that Thomas Sutherland recognised the role Israel had played and thanked the Israelis suitably.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL ZINKIN,
16 Arnos Grove, Southgate, N14.

From Mr Derek Bratt

Sir, Until I saw Terry Waite and Tom Sutherland cracking jokes about their incarceration, I never understood the term "grace under pressure".

Yours in wonderment,
DEREK BRATT,
26 Windsor Road,
Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire.

Amateur musicians who seek the professional touch

From the Managing Director of the Royal Academy of Music

Sir, I have recently heard the London Symphony Orchestra under Rostropovich and, two days later, the Northern Baroque Orchestra — a band of happy players not much known outside its native home of Rochdale.

In the new debate on the future of musical priorities in Britain ("Missing the music makers", leading article, November 15) it will be important not to separate the professionals and amateurs as somehow being at odds. They both make a unique contribution to our cultural life and should never have to vie with each other for public funds.

Most importantly, they both rely on music conservatoires for their reservoir of talent and we, too, share the concerns over the decline in instrumental tuition and singing in our schools.

Not everyone who leaves here will be a Pavarotti, but they will all have the potential to bring endless enjoyment to others, plus an enrichment of their own lives through performance, be it in the Barbican, EC2, or the Gracie Fields Theatre, Rochdale.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. MADDAMS,
Managing Director,
Royal Academy of Music,
Marylebone Road, NW1.
November 18.

From Sir Yehudi Menuhin

Sir, Your leader illuminates the dire contrast between support of the professional sector of music with the almost total lack of support for the amateur. I heartily agree. The highest standards cannot survive without the broadest foundation among our millions — a fact well understood and implemented in the field of sport, where this axiom is self-evident.

Our present obsession with the end-result at the expense of the prolonged process is exemplified by the manifold competitions intent on plucking and exposing ever younger and brighter flowers and fruit (not always the most fragrant and modest) or by proclaiming the "definitive" performance or solution.

At a time in which widespread leisure and energy are exploding into boredom and violence, might not time and money be saved on the futility of prisons and reformatories by creating a multitude of craftsmen in the arts and sciences?

England, so long the exemplar of all that represents the amateur in its fundamental significance, has fallen prey to an artificial and ill-conceived myth that would separate the amateur from the professional. The one is the outgrowth of the other's health.

More strength to the new Voluntary Arts Network, and from the trombones a rousing fanfare.

Yours etc.,
YEHUDI MENUHIN,
4 & 5 Primrose Mews,
Regent's Park Road, NW1.

From Mr Michael C. Doughty

Sir, The Music Industries Association, which has existed for 70 years, has always believed that music education is essentially a practical subject. Twenty years ago we founded the National Festival of Music for Youth, out of which, in association with *The Times Educational Supplement*, grew the Schools Prom. Hundreds of thousands of young people have taken part in these practical music-making events, drawn from every area of Britain.

We believe that with the right guidance, good teaching and the necessary resources, all children can develop practical musical skills. More than ten years ago, we identified the need for teacher-training at primary level and sponsored a national programme of training for primary school music consultants' at Reading University.

This government has urged industry to actively participate in education. We have done so and look forward to the full implementation of the proposals for music within the national curriculum, to include practical tuition for all.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL C. DOUGHTY
(*Chairman, Education Committee*),
Music Industries Association,
7 The Avenue, Datchet,
Slough, Berkshire.

From Mrs Barbara Humble

Sir, Until recently, the Bath Society of Young Musicians, which has been in existence for 22 years, had 300 members of all abilities under 21 years of age. However, Avon Education Authority now charges those children in the society who attend independent schools (one third of the membership) £77.50 per term, (as opposed to £15.50 for those in Avon-maintained schools).

The result is that the society has lost 75 of its 100 independently educated children. A previously happy and successful Saturday morning music group, where children from all walks of life came together to make music and friendships, has been thrown into division and turmoil.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA HUMBLE,
7/9 Woolley Street,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

From Mrs Gillian F. Earl

Sir, It surely makes sense for all children to be taught music using the most beautiful of instruments — the human voice — which is free of charge. The result would be happier children whose musical appreciation would always be active, not passive, for they would understand the language of music.

Orchestral instruments could still be put into the hands only of those shown to be the most likely to benefit from learning to play them: limited resources would thus be put to far more effective use.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN F. EARL (Chairman,
British Kodály Academy),
Heathercliffe, Sennen,
Penzance, Cornwall.
November 16.

From Mr Andrew Clark

Sir, Two years ago I was privileged and, I might say, proud to give a paper to a French national association for music education whose delegates were keen to learn about what they saw as a successful model for instrumental teaching in the UK. Today I would be reluctant to accept such an invitation and, however good the delivery, I doubt if there would be the same enthusiasm. Pride clearly still comes before a fall.

Yours, still proud to be British,
ANDREW CLARK
(Tutor for music),
Doncaster College,
High Melton Hall,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire.
November 18.

Britain and the PLO

From Sir Dennis Walters, MP for Westbury (Conservative)

Sir, Following his visit to Israel David Baxter (letter, November 18) voices strong disapproval of the suggestion that British ministers should talk with the PLO. He is wrong about this. By formally accepting United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 and by rejecting the use of violence in 1988, Mr Arafat and the PLO adopted the policy that successive British governments had been urging upon them. They did so in spite of Israel's continuing occupation of Arab territory in defiance of successive UN resolutions and its illegal settlement programme.

The distinguished Palestinians who presented their country's cause at Madrid were widely and understandably praised for their tolerance, good sense, moderation and willingness to compromise. They are, however, loyal to the PLO leadership and we should recognise that the PLO moderates made the conference possible. It would be both sensible and right if we talked to them at ministerial level.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS WALTERS (Chairman,
Conservative Middle East Council),
House of Commons.
November 19.

Repossessed homes

From the Director of Shelter

Sir, The housing minister, Sir George Young, says (letter, November 15) that the government is implementing a "battery of measures" to help owner occupiers at risk of homelessness because of mortgage difficulties.

Shelter fears that this year alone as many as 100,000 households could lose their home. Despite Sir George's claim, no measures have succeeded in stemming this rising tide. One key explanation for this is that the government is persisting with a system of support for housing costs which no longer reflects the changing reality of employment patterns and the increase in owner occupation among lower-income groups.

Many of the families in danger of repossession are two-earner households who face difficulties because one of the wage earners has become unemployed. Their income has dropped but not low enough to claim income support. If they were paying rent they could be eligible for housing benefit but there is no equivalent source of help for owner occupiers. The main form of support for mortgage costs — mortgage interest tax relief — gives no special help to lower-income households and, indeed, the bulk of the tax relief is spent on supporting the mortgages of higher earners.

It is time for government to grasp the nettle of reform and bring together the hotch-potch of support for housing costs — income support, housing benefit and mortgage tax relief — into a coherent and better targeted system of housing payments. If the government is serious about preventing further homelessness it should begin the process of modernising this increasingly anachronistic part of our social security and tax system.

Yours sincerely,
SHEILA McKECHNIE, Director,
Shelter,
88 Old Street, EC1.
November 16.

Voting conditions

From Mr Cedric Price

Sir, I read (report, November 14) that in the election by MPs of the Conservative backbench European affairs committee "People were jostled and some nearly knocked over as MPs shouted for ballot papers. Some had several in their hands at once and Norman Tebbit at one stage climbed onto a table to say that many MPs were still without the means to record their votes". You also report that "the voting figures are kept secret".

Can this be the same party that introduced the most stringent legal conditions for major elections in trade unions?

Yours sincerely,
CEDRIC PRICE,
38 Alfred Place, WC1.

Fusion power

From Professor Lewis Lesley

Sir, Professor Sir Hermann Bondi (letter, November 14) is right to question the benignity of fusion power. Without decrying the undoubted technical and intellectual achievement which the recent demonstration at Jet (Joint European Torus) of fusion power represents, similar claims were being made in the early 1950s about fission power.

The real issue is that the money spent on developing fusion power for the future is not being spent on reducing the waste of energy at the present. In the UK motor vehicles waste nearly 80 per cent of the fuel consumed, conventional power stations 70 per cent, buildings 50 per cent. The money spent on nuclear R & D could have insulated every building in the UK to a Scandinavian standard and saved more energy than has so far been generated by nuclear power.

Let us first reduce today's waste, which will also reduce pollution and greenhouse gases, and stretch fossil fuel reserves further into the future. Then we should develop renewable energy, e.g., harnessing a perfectly safe fusion reactor 96 million miles away, before spending millions to build a sun on Earth.

Yours sincerely,
LEWIS LESLEY,
Liverpool Polytechnic,
School of the Built Environment,
Mount Pleasant Buildings,
98 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3.

From Professor J. D. Dowell, FRS

Sir, Jet has nothing to do with particle accelerators looking for the Higgs meson, so why link them (Nigel Hawkes's article, "Back to the bunsen", November 15)? Fusion research is aimed at providing a clean, plentiful energy source in several decades' time, when others are likely to be exhausted. The amount spent on the research in Europe to date is the cost of a couple of days' oil imports. This seems an appropriate scale by which to judge the level of investment.

As for the new particle accelerator at the Cern laboratory in Geneva, it is not demanding more resources from the UK as Mr Hawkes suggests, but only a continuation of the present budget level. Furthermore, the cause of the crisis in the Science and Engineering Research Council this year was not Cern, but mainly the failure of the government to allow the proper rate of inflation on the science budget.

His argument that a branch of science should be stopped because it seems to explain everything sufficiently well for most purposes has also proved false on several occasions in the past. In particle physics, the main open question is the origin of mass, which may or may not be explained by the Higgs meson.

Surely the origin of mass is a piece of basic science worth knowing, particularly as we can find out without increasing the cost of research. This is not to dispute the need for more funds for science overall, which have fallen by 20 per cent as a proportion of the GDP over the last ten years, incidentally with particle physics taking a decreasing share.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. DOWELL,
The University of Birmingham,
School of Physics and
Space Research,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

On the slide

From Mr Peter Spaull

Sir, Marius Carboni (letter, November 17) should not decry the trombonist. He has the advantage over us non-players, who in later years have to learn the use of our slide-arm in order to bring into focus the letters column of your newspaper.

Yours truly,
PETER SPAULL,
25a The Spinney, Parkgate,
South Wirral, Cheshire.

From Mrs J. G. Palmer

Sir, I was intrigued by Richard Morrison's account of the versatility of the trombone. He did, however, overlook one point: for the Germans the final fanfare is played, not by the trumpet but by *die letzte Posaune* — the last trombone.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY PALMER,
18 Pinecroft, Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire.

Training engineers

From Mr Dennis Higton

Sir, With great respect I would wish to take issue with the Astronomer Royal's suggestion (letter, November 14) that following a physicist's PhD in astronomy it would be sensible for such a person to gain a foothold in manufacturing engineering by taking a "short, sharp engineering course".

Engineering is as much an art as a science and to become an engineer (and gain the just respect) it is vital to have an innate aptitude, proper training and understanding. His choice of Brunel and Whittle are ample examples of this.

We must train from an early age and properly use such people soon if we are to survive. We are after all traditionally good at it.

Sincerely,
D. HIGTON,
Jasmine Cottage,
Rollestone Road,
Shrewton,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Holidays for trees

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, Your November 13 editorial, "Holidays for trees", proposes that fossil fuel-burning communities of industrialised nations should engage in compensatory tree planting to offset their carbon dioxide emissions.

You may care to note that the Applied Energy Services corporation in the United States has undertaken to fund the planting of 52 million trees in Guatemala to offset the carbon dioxide emissions from its new coal-fired electricity plant; and The Netherlands government is to finance tree-planting projects in 1,000 square miles of South America to balance out similar emissions from two new electricity plants.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MYERS,
Upper Meadow,
Old Road,
Headington, Oxford.
November 19.

Shrinking world

From Mr Alan J. Davidson

Sir, I recently received a communication from a football pools company which advised me encouragingly that, last year, there were some really big wins not far from where I live.

They revealed the identities of these fortunate near-neighbours of mine as "Mr Clancy from Mauritius" and "a lady from overseas".

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. DAVIDSON,
Green Braes, Lamancha,
West Linton,
Peeblesshire.
November 18.

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Sports letters, page 38

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 20: His Excellency Monsieur Francois Ngarukiyintwali was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Rwanda.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following member of the Embassy: Monsieur Jean-Marie Vianney (First Counsellor).

Sir David Gillmore, Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was present with The Queen.

Madame Ngarukiyintwali was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Roger Hervey was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and delivered up to Her Majesty his Chain of Office. The Queen conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Mr Anthony Figgis was received by The Queen and received his Chain of Office on his appointment as Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps.

His Excellency Sir William Douglas was received by The Queen on his appointment as High Commissioner for Barbados in London.

Lady Douglas was also received by Her Majesty.

The Duke of Edinburgh, International President of WWF —World Wide Fund for Nature, chaired an Executive Committee Meeting at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Later, His Royal Highness, Patron of the Radio Society of Great Britain, received the President, Past President and young radio licensees.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh held an Evening Reception at Buckingham Palace for the Diplomatic Corps at which The Prince and Princess of Wales, The Duke of York and the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon were present.

The String Orchestra of the Irish Guards played selections of music during the evening. Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard and a dismounted detachment of the Household Cavalry were on duty.

November 20: The Duke of York, Patron of the Badminton Association of England, today attended a reception and luncheon at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of West Midlands (the Right Hon the Earl of Aylesford).

Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton was in attendance.

November 20: The Duchess of York, President, this evening attended the Action Research Annual General Meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, SW1. Captain Neil Blair, RN, was in attendance.

November 20: The Princess Royal visited West Yorkshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire (The Lord Ingrow).

Her Royal Highness, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, visited the Acre Cliffe Stables, Otley. Afterwards The Princess Royal opened the new Twin Wool Scouring Set at Thomas Chadwick and Sons of Standard Wool (UK) Ltd, Dewsbury.

Subsequently Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visited Caldene Clothing Company, Mytholmroyd, Calderdale. In the evening, The Princess Royal attended the Royal Concert at the Barbican Hall, London. Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 20: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today visited HMS Ark Royal at Portsmouth and honoured the Commanding Officer (Captain Neil Rankin) with her presence at luncheon. The Hon Mrs Rhodes, Sir Alastair Aird and Captain Conolly Morris-Adams were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 20: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, today visited Dorchester and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Dorset (the Lord Digby). His Royal Highness opened the newly refurbished Corn Exchange in Dorchester.

Subsequently The Prince of Wales, opened the Dorchester Arts Centre, The Grove, School Lane, Dorchester. Mr David Landale was in attendance.

The Princess of Wales visited Mildmay Mission Hospital, Hackney Road, E2. Wing Commander David Barton, RAF, was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 20: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon opened York House of the West Berkshire Housing Association, Clarence Way, Calcot, Reading, Berkshire.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Berkshire (Mr John Henderson). Mrs Michael Harvey was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, today visited Units of the Royal Army Educational Corps, Aldershot, Hampshire. Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 20: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the National Electronics Council, this afternoon took the Chair at the Council's Annual General Meeting and later attended the Mountbatten Memorial Lecture, given by Professor Sir Eric Ash, followed by Dinner at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2. Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 20: Princess Alexandra, Colonel-in-Chief, today attended a Reception given by the King's Own Royal Border Regiment at Cadogan Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London SW3. Rear Admiral Sir John Garnier was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. Bell
and Miss S. FitzHugh
The engagement is announced between Gary, son of Mr and the late Mrs Terence Bell, of Nottingham, and Sophia, daughter of Mr and Mrs William FitzHugh, of Chepstow Place, London.

Mr M.C. Cole-Fontayn
and Miss A.M. Hancock
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Malcolm Cole-Fontayn, of London, SW6, and Mrs Dick Vettewinkel, of Dorchester on Thames, Oxon, and Anne Marie, daughter of Ronald Hancock and the late Mrs Stella Hancock, of West Horsley, Surrey.

Mr C.J. Davies
and Miss C.S. Crossland
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Davies, of Gloucester, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Crossland, of Wells, Somerset.

Mr W.N. Esse
and Miss E.F. Hare
The engagement is announced between William, son of the late David Esse and of Mrs Ann Esse, of Inglestone Common, Avon, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Rose Hare, of Stow Bardolph, Norfolk.

Mr M.P.A. Eyre
and Miss J.C.H. Passey
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Air Commodore and Mrs A.W. Eyre, of Bath, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.A. Passey, of Kensington.

Mr R.D. Gowshall
and Miss R.L. Baker
The engagement is announced between Richard David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Gowshall, of Londwater, Hertfordshire, and Rachel Louise, daughter of Mrs C. Baker, of Quatford, Shropshire.

Mr A.A. Horsburgh
and Miss V.L. Poole
The engagement is announced between Adrian Andrew, son of Mr and Dr A. Horsburgh, of Croxley Green, Hertfordshire, and Victoria Lindsey, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Poole, of Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.

Mr F.C. Peebles
and Miss N.J. Poyner
The engagement is announced between Forbes, son of Mr and Mrs W.F. Peebles, of Devizes, Wiltshire, and Nicola, daughter of Dr and Mrs K.G. Poyner, of Kings Norton, Birmingham.

Mr J.E. Lindley
and Miss S.L. Glover
The engagement is announced between James Exley, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Lindley, of Reigate, Surrey, and Sarah Louise, only daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs W.E. Glover, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.R. Pendered
and Miss N. Dickins
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.G. Pendered, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs B.J. Dickins, of Royston, Hertfordshire.

Mr J. Rushton
and Miss S.M. Butler
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Trevor Rushton, of Worsthorne, Lancashire, and Susan Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. James Butler, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr J.D. Skinner
and Miss T.L. Atherton
The engagement is announced between James Dermot, son of Mr and Mrs J.J. Skinner, of Epsom, Surrey, and Tamsin Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Atherton, of Penmaen, Gower, West Glamorgan.

Mr S.B. Welton
and Miss N.J. Gatland
The engagement is announced between Sean, elder son of Mr and Mrs B. Welton, of South Weald, Essex, formerly of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.R. Gatland, of Fontmell Parva House, Childe Okeford, Dorset.

Marriage

Mr N.J. Tremlett
and Miss C.M. Stewart
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 16, at St Peter-in-Eastgate Church, Lincoln, between Mr Nicholas Tremlett, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Tremlett, of Sotik, Kenya, and Miss Catherine Stewart, only daughter of Mr J.O.R. Stewart, FRCS, and Dr Mary Stewart, of Northgate, Lincoln. The Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Jan Roberts, Lucy Warwick and Henrietta Ross. The bridegroom was supported by Mrs Val Javens.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR J. P. STERN

Joseph Peter Maria Stern, professor of German at University College, London, 1972-1986, died after a short illness on November 18 at home in Cambridge aged 70. He was born in Prague on December 25, 1920.

J. P. STERN was a critic of modern German literature, philosophy and history, whose books and essays combined true erudition, profound insight and lucid intelligence in equal measure. More than most scholars, Stern succeeded in communicating his own enthusiasm for the hazardous intellectual experiments that distinguish German culture of the past two centuries. But he never shrank from showing how, after 1918, German literature and philosophy were "turned into an instrument drawing value from defeat like poison from a corpse". With his zest for public debate and contempt for academic parochialism, he knew how to render the most difficult authors accessible, without diminishing those who mattered to him and without a trace of dilettantism.

A Germanist who spoke no German until he was 11, Stern spoke no English either until 18. Yet he became both English country gentleman and cosmopolitan scholar; he rode to hounds until his last years. His improbable career arose from the catastrophe which the Germans visited on Europe. Stern was driven by the need to make sense both of his own strange fate and of the unspeakable one which engulfed many of his relatives at the hands of the Nazis. But, unlike many who had lost less, he forgave the Germans.

Peter Stern was born into a well-educated Jewish family which, two generations before, had been converted to Catholicism and become farmers in Bohemia. Louisa, his mother, had been divorced. Gustav, his economist father, had fought in the Czech legion during the first world war and raised his son and stepdaughter, Ilse, to speak Czech. German was frowned on, but at the age of 11 Stern was sent briefly to Bavaria and later spent time in Vienna.

When the Germans occupied Prague in March 1939 Stern's father fled to London, hoping the rest of the family would follow. But his mother could not face exile and in June she killed herself. Ilse was later sent to a concentration camp at Lodz which she, unlike her husband, survived. Peter Stern, aged 18, walked across the Polish border and, a week before war broke out, made his way via Gdynia to London. On the quayside he met an older Czech émigré who became his mentor and friend, the late Erich Heller. Reunited with his father, Stern learnt English partly by listening at Speakers' Corner. Later he was sent to Barry grammar school in Glamorgan for a year.

By summer 1940 Stern had enrolled for a course at the LSE and found himself promptly evacuated to Cambridge. There he met his future wife, Sheila McMullan. Within a term he had switched from the LSE to St John's College, Cambridge, with which he retained links for the rest of his life, and from economics to German and Russian. But he also volunteered for the Czech army. In 1941 he was transferred to a Czech squadron in the RAF, where he trained as a rear-gunner. In September 1942 his Wellington was shot down over the sea; he lost most of a hand and pints of blood before help arrived after 14 hours in high seas. After further narrow escapes, Stern returned to Cambridge in 1943; he was married the year after and took his degree in 1945.

After he had gone through a penurious spell in teacher training, his father helped to finance his research, under Michael Oakeshott, on the eighteenth century aphorist G. C. Lichtenberg. He received his doctorate in 1949 and in 1950 took a post at Bedford College, London. Two years later he returned to St John's, Cambridge, and stayed until 1972.

Oakeshott, Heller and Ludwig Wittgenstein were the main influences on Stern during his Cambridge apprenticeship. Stern's reverence for Wittgenstein could not disguise a distaste for some of his disciples; he also knew how to discriminate between the master's original ideas and other, all-too-Viennese flaws. When Stern compared Wittgenstein to Lichtenberg their friendship cooled. But Stern's dissertation, published in 1959 as *G. C. Lichtenberg: a doctrine of scattered occasions*, remains a seminal work.

If Wittgenstein sensitised Stern to language as a form of life, Oakeshott reminded him that it was not the only one. Heller's *The Disinherited Mind*, a study of European literature *in extremis*, spoke to Stern in a voice transfigured by the experience of exile.

The European conservatism of both Oakeshott and Heller was balanced by the American Lionel Trilling's "liberal imagination", which showed Stern how the literary critic might venture moral judgments without lapsing into moralising. Stern met Trilling in 1951 and the two became close friends; Stern spent most summer vacations as a visiting professor at various American universities.

The Sterns' house in Barton Road, which they built in 1954, became a focus of intellectual life in Cambridge. During this period Stern wrote a pungent study of Jünger in 1952, followed by two magisterial volumes on 19th century German literature: *Reinterpretations* (1964) and *Idylls and Realities* (1971). These studies of the search for reality culminated in the treatise *On Realism* (1973).

The move to University College, London, rekindled the interest in German ideology which produced his best known book, *Hitler: the Führer and the People* (1975). From there Stern found his way back to the philosopher who most foreshadowed the century to come: Nietzsche. Stern's *A Study of Nietzsche* (1979) will stand as the model of a critical mode of thought which eludes literary or philosophical categories. A shorter version appeared in paperback. This was followed by *Nietzsche on Tragedy*, written with the classicist Michael Silk, the definitive study of Nietzsche's first enigmatic book.

During his period at University College Stern also spent much time running the Institute of Germanic Studies. Stern retired from his chair in 1986. By this time he was working on his last and most ambitious book — a survey of 20th century German literature under the unifying theme he had made his own, "the dear purchase" — which will now appear posthumously. A volume of essays, *Heart of Europe*, will be published next spring. Stern received many academic honours.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila, two sons and two daughters.

ARTHUR HAMMOND

Arthur Hammond, conductor, died in London on November 11 aged 86. He was born in Sheffield on December 9, 1904.

ARTHUR Hammond was one of the most valued members of the operatic profession in this country. He spent a lifetime propagating opera, as conductor, musicologist and editor.

Perhaps his greatest claim to fame was his work on French nineteenth century opera. In 1957, during his second spell as the music director of the now-defunct Carl Rosa company, he prepared a working edition of Berlioz's *Benvenuto Cellini*, which proved invaluable when Covent Garden staged the piece a decade or so later. He was also one of the first to try to reconstruct an authentic version of Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, with dialogue. His edition was the basis for Felsenstein's famous production at the Komische Oper in Berlin, Richard Bonynge's recording and Colin Graham's staging at the English National Opera. He was one of the first, while at the Carl Rosa, to restore the original dialogue to *Carmen*. Most recently he worked on the restoration of the original version of Bizet's *Les Pêcheurs de perles*.

Hammond studied conducting with Sir Henry Wood and in the 1920s joined the British National Opera Company at the instigation of Beecham. In 1927 he became chorus master of the Carl Rosa and from 1928-33 was its principal conductor, later music director. He conducted all the regular repertory from Mozart through to Wagner, including his first *Ring* cycle in 1931, and the premiere of *Bronwen*, an opera by his friend Josef Holbrooke.

In 1933 he went to the United States with Albert Coates to share the conducting of a Metropolitan Opera tour, and from 1933 to 1939 he worked with Coates at Covent Garden, making his conducting debut there in 1936 with *Madama Butterfly*. After the war he was instrumental in bringing over the Opéra-Comique for a few, treasured performances of *Pelléas et Mélisande* at Covent Garden.

In 1948 he returned to the Carl Rosa, once more as music director, and remained with the company until 1960. In 1963 he was with the Israel National Opera in Tel Aviv as principal guest conductor and directed many performances with the then-unknown Placido Domingo, who was at the time leading tenor with the company. Hammond was a professor and producer at the Royal Northern College of Music from 1969 to 1973 and music consultant at Covent Garden from 1973 to 1988, when his extensive knowledge of the repertory was greatly in demand in the preparation of performing editions. He continued to conduct until the end of his days, his last engagement being at Plovdiv, Bulgaria, two months ago.

Hammond was such a familiar figure in British opera circles that he became taken almost for granted. His kindly presence and modest manner hid a man with determined ideas. He was always ready with advice for young artists, usually leading them along the right path. With his mane of white hair and slim figure, he was a notable presence at the Royal Opera House, leaning intently out of the staff box as he attended to every detail of a performance.

He was married to the soprano Rhonda Bachmann, who survives him.

SANDY RENDEL

Alexander "Sandy" Meadows Rendel, CBE, diplomatic correspondent of The Times, *1952-75, died on November 14 aged 81. He was born on May 14, 1910.*

A CHANCE meeting with an old friend in wartime Cairo led to Sandy Rendel, an artillery officer in Iran, being seconded to special forces based in Crete. He was to live the next two years in mountain caves, dressed as a shepherd, as a liaison officer with the Greek resistance.

His recruitment had been quaintly British. His qualifications were a classical education, acquired at Rugby and Corpus Christi, Oxford, and a pre-war walking tour on the Greek mainland. Yet after a short course of instruction he slipped ashore one moonless night in 1943 on one of the more hazardous operations of the war. Rendel, special agent, communicated with his new allies in ancient Greek, which he wrote on scraps of paper in bold capitals. They replied in similar manner in modern Greek, thus establishing a rapport between scholar and peasants which underpinned their espionage activities. The danger was compounded by the locals who, whenever a new hide-out was established, could not resist coming from miles around to stare at it. But the Germans were fortunately wary of the hills and kept their search and destroy raids to a minimum.

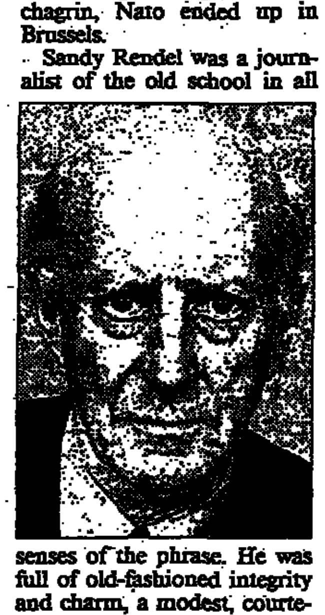
Sandy Rendel's adventures were used by W. Stanley Moss in his yarn about wartime Crete *Ill Met by Moonlight*, later to be filmed successfully. His own less flamboyant account, *Appointment in Crete*, was favourably reviewed in 1953. By then he had embarked on a new job as diplomatic correspondent of *The Times* in which he remained for the rest of his career. So clearly was "A. M. Rendel" identified with the post that it is hard now to think of him occupying any other. Yet he was touching forty when he joined the newspaper and he did so after trying his hand at other occupations.

His first ambition was to be a diplomat. But although he passed the Foreign Office entrance he did not do well enough to win a place. He switched to the law but, with some time to spare, went first on a travelling holiday to the continent. This gave him his first taste for journalism. Introduced to *The Times* correspondent in the Saar, he was asked to help out while the other man went on holiday. The year was 1935, when the Saarlanders voted by plebiscite to be reincorporated into Germany. Rendel's first file, an exclusive story, was promptly spiked in Printing House Square, whose editors seemed not to have been told of the staff change. The next day the *Express* used the story, whereupon *The Times* had the grace to apologise — and ask Rendel to send it again. He later wrote the "splash" and remained in the Saar for three months.

The next four years were spent in a solicitor's office, before and after qualifying. He then moved to a Quaker educational settlement in the Rhondda for six months, which took him up to the outbreak of the war. After VE-Day he stayed in Greece, first as regional officer for the UN Association, then on attachment to the British Embassy in Athens.

He was given a more formal introduction to *The Times* on returning home, however, and joined the staff on August 1, 1949, first as assistant diplomatic correspondent, then taking over the job itself in 1952. An early coup was an interview with Tito on Yugoslavia's internal problems — a report which seems wryly pertinent today. Another "scoop", which gave him less pleasure some years later, was his story which led the paper on May 3, 1966, the day on which news permanently replaced advertisements on page one. "London to be new HQ for Nato" it announced, following the alliance's eviction from France. Alas, Rendel's speculative masterpiece, which was subsequently flashed round the world, had one thing wrong. To his chagrin, Nato ended up in Brussels.

Sandy Rendel was a journalist of the old school in all senses of the phrase. He was full of old-fashioned integrity and charm, a modest, courteous envoy of his newspaper and his craft. His were the days in which the man from *The Times* was briefed individually by the Foreign Office, though Sandy maintained this had its disadvantages. He travelled widely, though decreasingly — and regretted the decline of London as a world centre of decision-making.



He worked briefly for the Council of Europe after retiring, then devoted his time to his grandchildren and fly-fishing — at which he was skilled and succesful. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and five children,

SIR CLIFFORD CAMPBELL

David Shepherd writes:

SIR Clifford Campbell (obituary October 18) was fully aware that his countrymen did not have a well-developed sense of time, and that the only activities in his Jamaica which always started promptly were church services and cinema shows. Thus he was insistent that he would never be late for any function he was to attend in his official capacity.

There were several stories of his arriving for an occasion before the organisers. I had the great privilege of entertaining him as guest for a prizegiving ceremony at the school of which I was head. Lunch was over and there was still half an hour to go before the ceremony was due to begin, but he looked across at his ADC and said: "We will start getting ready. There is only one person who may not be late in Jamaica, and that is the governor-general."

Luncheons

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce
Mr Bob Rae, Premier of Ontario, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at Haberdashers' Hall. Mr Iain Hope, president, was in the chair. The Canadian High Commissioner was among those present.

German Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Sir Bob Reid, Chairman of the British Railways Board, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in the United Kingdom held yesterday at the London Marriott Hotel. Sir Oliver Wright, president, was in the chair.

Musicians Benevolent Fund
The Musicians Benevolent Fund gave a luncheon yesterday at Merchant Taylors' Hall to mark the Festival of St Cecilia. Lord Goodman, CH, Sir Neville Marriner and Sir Ian Hunter, chairman of the fund, were the speakers.

Service dinner

Director of Infantry
The Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Right Hon Peter Brooke, MP, were the guests of honour at the Director of Infantry's dinner, held on Tuesday, November 19, in the Infantry Mess, Warminster. Major-General R.J. Hodges, the Director of Infantry, presided.

Knighthoods

The Queen has been pleased to approve that the honour of Knighthood be conferred upon Mr Justice Parker and Mr Justice Connell on their appointment as Justices of the High Court of Justice.

Dinners

CBI
Mr John Banham, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, and Mrs Banham were hosts last night at a dinner held at Centre Point in honour of the President of Hungary and Mrs Göncz. Among those present were:
Sir Robert Wade-Gery, Sir Francis Kennedy, Sir Geoffrey Littler, Mr Edward George, Mr John Birch, Mr Gordon Campbell, Mr Alan Lewis and Mr Walter Hogbin.

Speaker
The Speaker and Mrs Weatherill gave a dinner in Speaker's House last night. The guests were:
The Lord President of the Council and Mrs MacGregor, Lord and Lady Callaghan of Cardiff, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, CH, and Lady Cledwyn, Lord Waddington, QC, and Lady Waddington, Mr Paddy Ashdown, MP, and Mrs Ashdown, Mr James Molyneaux, MP, and Mrs Donald Gray.

St John Ambulance Association
The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, accompanied by Mrs Leigh-Pemberton, was the speaker at the national dinner of the St John Ambulance Association held last night at the Naval and Military Club. Dr Anthony Blowers, Director-General of St John Ambulance, presided. Among the other guests were:
Lord and Lady Vestey, Lord and Lady Westbury, Professor and Mrs A R Mellows, Major the Hon Sir Clive Bossom, Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Godfrey Milton-Thompson, Mr A Godsal and Lady Elizabeth Godsal, Mr and Mrs I C H Moody and Mrs Anthony Blowers.

Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers
The Lord Mayor was represented by Alderman Sir Christopher Collett at the annual dinner of the Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers held last night at Plaisterers' Hall. Mr A.H.W. Clover, Master, presided. Mr Justice Hidden and Mr Derrick J. Kaye, First Warden, also spoke.

Inner Temple
Mr F. Petre Crowder, QC, Treasurer of the Inner Temple, and the Masters of the Bench entertained at dinner in hall last night, it being Grand Day of Michaelmas Term. Among those present were:
The Earl and Countess of Gainsborough, Patricia Viscountess Trenchard, the Right Rev Lord Coggan, Lord St Levan, Lord Denham, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Lord Harvington, Field Marshal Lord Carver, Lord Holderness, Lady Griffiths, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, the Hon Martin Fortescue, the Hon Mrs Petre Crowder, the Hon Mrs Paul Asquith, Brigadier Sir Jeffrey Darell, Judith Lady Roberts, Lady May, Sir Kenneth Lewis, Rear-Admiral Sir Morgan Morgan-Giles, Mr J L Lowther, Mr Philip Cox, QC (treasurer, Gray's Inn), Mr Anthony Fortescue, Mrs Barbara Mills, QC, Canon Joseph Robinson (Master of the Temple) and Captain P T Sheehan, RN (sub-treasurer).

Royal College of Pathologists
Professor Peter Lachmann, President of the Royal College of Pathologists, and Dr Sylvia Lachmann were host at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal College of Surgeons after the annual meeting and foundation lecture delivered by Professor Keith Peters, Regius Professor of Physic at Cambridge University. The Hon William Waldegrave, MP, and Professor Maxime Seligmann were the speakers. Among others present were:
Lord Butterfield, Lord and Lady Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, Lord and Lady Walton of Detchant, Sir Walter and Lady Bodmer, Sir Arnold Burgen, Sir Colin and Lady Dollery, Sir Terence and Lady English, Sir Christopher and Lady France, Sir Robert and Lady Kilpatrick, Professor Keith Peters and Dr Pamela Ewan and Mr P Wright.

Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers Association
Mr Christopher Patten, Chairman of the Conservative Party, and Mr Peter Preston, Editor of *The Guardian*, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers Association of Britain held last night at the Reform Club. Mr Robert Mauthner, president, was in the chair.

The Machine Tool Technologies Association
Mr R.P. Bull, President of the Machine Tool Technologies Association, with the Officers of the Association was host at the Annual Dinner held last night at Grosvenor House. Sir David Plastow, Chairman of Vickers Plc, was the guest of honour and replied to the toast: "The Guests".

Marketing Group of Great Britain
Mr Tim Bowles presided over the dinner held last night at the Dorchester Hotel by the Marketing Group of Great Britain. The guest speaker was Mr Jon Foulds, Chairman of the Halifax Building Society.

Birthdays today

Sir Alex Alexander, former chairman, J. Lyons and Company, 75; Mr Coningsby Allday, former chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 71; Miss Beryl Bainbridge, writer, 57; Mrs Georgina Battiscombe, author, 86; Earl Beatty, 45; Mr Roy Boulting, film producer, 78; Mr J.D. Bullmore, a director, WPP Group, 62; Miss Amelia Freedman, founder, Nash Ensemble, 51; Mr Nickolas Grace, actor, 44; Dr Michael Grant, former vice-chancellor, The Queen's University, Belfast, 77; Mr Stanley Kalms, founder, Dixons Group, 60; Mr Jacques Laffite, racing driver, 48; Mr Peter Liddle, racehorse trainer, 55; Miss Natalia Makarova, ballerina, 51; Viscount Monsell, 86; Professor G.E.H. Reuter, mathematician, 70; Mr Tim Robinson, cricketer, 33; Mr Telly Savalas, actor, 69; Earl Waldegrave, 86; Mr Malcolm Williamson, Master of The Queen's Music, 60; Viscount Younger of Leckie, 85.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit RAF Brize Norton at 11.00.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a concert at St James's Palace at 6.45 to mark the 21st anniversary of the English-Speaking Union Music Fund.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Riding for the Disabled Association, will visit Shenstone and Milestone Groups at Mount Mascal Stables, Vicarage Road, Bexley, Kent, at 10.30; as Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists, will open the occupational therapy department at Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, at 11.55; and the department at Nunnery Fields Hospital, Canterbury, at 1.30. As Patron of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, she will visit the bureau at 43 Stone Street, Faversham, at 2.15; as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the fund's shop, 28 High Street, Sittingbourne, at 3.00; and as Patron of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, will visit the bureau at 46 Green Street, Gillingham, at 3.45. Later, she will speak at the Institute of Directors' annual dinner at Grosvenor House at 7.15.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, will visit clubs in Dorset. He will visit Trinidad Boys' Club, Poole, at 10.20; Poole and Dorset Adventure Centre at 10.55; Oakdale Pool Boys' Club at 2.40; Parkstone Boys' and Girls' Club at 3.15; Branksome United Boys' Sports Club at 3.50; and Hamworthy Engineering Social Club at 4.30.

The Duchess of Kent, patron, will open the new day centre at St Catherine's Hospice, Malthouse Road, Crawley, at 11.00.

Memorial services

Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Ashton Hill
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Ashton Hill was held yesterday in Southwark Cathedral. Canon Peter Penwarden, vice-provost, the Rev Carl Attwood, who also gave an address, and the Rev James Alexander officiated. Ms Elizabeth Ashton Hill, daughter, read from *Ode to a Nightingale* by Keats and Mr David Ashton Hill, son, read the lesson. The Master of the Glaziers' Company attended.

Dr Julius Grant
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Julius Grant was held yesterday in the Chapel of Gray's Inn. Canon Eric James officiated. Mr Leonard Caplan, QC, Master of the Bench, read the lesson and Mr Cyril Horsford read a poem by Major Malcolm Boyle of the Green Howards with an ending by Julius Grant. Judge J.A. Baker gave an address.

Appointments

Legal
Mr Justice Potter to be a Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit.

Mr William Ainger, Mr Henry Harrod and **Mr Anthony Taussig** to be Conveyancing Counsel of the Court.

Other appointments
Lord Rothschild to be Chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Sir Crispin Tickell to be a trustee of the Natural History Museum.

هكذا من الأصل

Have no fear, for I am with you; be not afraid for I am your God. I shall strengthen you and give you help and uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41 : 10

BIRTHS

BAKER - On November 14th, to Anne and Nick, a daughter, Laura Olivia, a sister for Louise.

BARTON - On November 19th, at Chase Farm, Enfield, at 9.10 pm, to Elaine Theresa (née Edney) and David, a daughter, Olivia Grace, a sister for Joseph.

GAFOOR - On November 19th at the Humana Hospital Wellington, to David and Maureen, a son, Alexander.

HAMPSHIRE - On November 10th, to Clare (née Corbishley) and Rupert, a son, James David.

HEWSTONE SMITH - On October 15th, to Melanie and Paul, a daughter, Grace.

JONES - On November 19th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Jane (née Walker) and Michael, a son, Sam.

LIDDELL - On Friday November 15th 1991, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Putney, to Janeen and Nicholas, a daughter, Amelia Jane.

McNEILL - On Sunday November 10th, to Stephanie (née Stacey) and Stuart, a son, Christopher Anthony.

McTAVISH - On November 17th, to Sarah (née Mills) and Jamie, a son Jack Alexander.

McTURK - On November 19th, at Dhahran, to Rachel (née Bedlington) and Jim, a son, Christopher Douglas Matthew, a brother for Catherine and James.

NICHOLLS - On November 7th, to Lynne and Stephen, a daughter, Sophie Alexandra.

RYDE - On November 17th, to Sheena and Keith, a daughter, Lara Elizabeth, a sister for Alexander.

TEMPLE-RICHARDS - On November 16th 1991, to Virginia (née Scott) and Charlie, a daughter, Juliana Virginia, a sister for Cornelia. Always remembering little Archie.

WALSH - On November 17th, to Harriet (née Glen) and David, a son, Simon Glen Ashe.

MARRIAGES

McBREARTY:BUTLER - On November 19th 1991, in Brisbane, Australia, Michael Edward, son of John and Muriel McBrearty, Bournemouth, to Claire Julia, daughter of Robert and Marigold Butler, Horsham.

DEATHS

ALEXANDER - On November 18th, Peggy, much loved wife of the late Ian and devoted mother of Sarah, Bella and Amanda. Funeral Service 3.30 pm, Friday November 22nd at St James Church, Gerrards Cross followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only please and donations, if desired, to Cancer Research.

BENNEWORTH - On November 18th 1991, Garry, Solicitor of London, after an uphill struggle for so long. The mind was willing and able but the body was finally defeated, so young at 39. Funeral at 2 pm, Monday November 25th 1991 at Marks Gate Cemetery, Whalebone Lane North, Chadwell Heath, Essex. Flowers to Eric Todd Funeral Service, 92 London Road, Romford, Essex, RM7 9QU.

CARSON - On November 18th 1991, peacefully at home after a short but courageous battle, Robert John (Kit) CBE, AFC, (Air Cdre. RAF, ret'd). Beloved husband of Jean, father of Margaret, Rosemary and Jill. Funeral Service to take place at St Radegund's Church, Scruton, N. Yorkshire, on Friday November 22nd 1991 at 1.30 pm - family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to: SSAFFA c/o The Manager, Lloyds Bank PLC, 118 High Street, Northallerton, N. Yorkshire DL7 8PW and Mr Cyril Preston (Treasurer), St Radegund's Church Restoration Fund, Parklands, Scruton, Northallerton, N. Yorkshire.

CHRISTER - On November 18th, peacefully in hospital, Stanley William, aged 79, deeply loved by his wife and family. Funeral Service at St George's Church, Woodford Avenue, Ilford, at 11 am on Tuesday November 26th followed by cremation at City of London Crematorium. Donations, if desired, in lieu of flowers to St Francis Hospice, Havering, c/o H.L. Hawes & Sons, 106 Tanners Lane, Barkingside, IG6 1QE.

DEATHS

CHAMBERS - On November 18th, Wing Cdr. Thomas Clare Chambers A.F.C., RAF (retired), aged 81 years. 'And how can man die better Than facing fearful odds, For the ashes of his fathers, and the Temples of his Gods'. Sleep in peace my darling, your devoted wife Jan. Father of Diana. Funeral Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Tuesday November 26th at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only but, if desired, donations to Pembury Hospital Radiotherapy Dept., c/o Francis Chappell Funeral Directors, 27 London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent.

DONOVAN - On November 18th 1991, peacefully at his home at Copdock, Suffolk, James Henry, aged 65 years, beloved husband of Teresa and father of Timothy, Anthony and John. Requiem Mass at St Peter's Church, Copdock, on Monday November 25th at 11 am. Flowers may be sent to Singleton and Hastings Funeral Service, Berners Street, Ipswich, tel: (0473) 252544.

EYSTON - On November 14th, Mary Elizabeth, aged 92. Fortified by the Rites of Holy Church. Funeral, 2.30pm, St Mary's Church, East Hendred, on Monday November 25th. Requiescat in Race.

FARRIS - On November 19th, peacefully in New Orleans, Helene Louise Israel, aged 97. Mother of Dianne and Mary Lou.

FLYNN - On November 18th, peacefully at Petersfield Hospital, Helen (née Velten), widow of Francis, much loved mother of John, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Liss, on Tuesday November 26th at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the R.S.P.B.

FRENCH - On November 19th 1991, Irene Brenda, suddenly at home. Dearly beloved mother of Peter and Judy, grandmother of Jason and Kirsten. Widow of the late Horatio George, past Assistant News Editor of The Sunday Times. Cremation at North East Surrey Crematorium, 4 pm November 25th. Family flowers only. Donations to Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey.

HALDANE - On November 19th 1991, suddenly but peacefully, Sheila Rosemary, beloved daughter of the late George and Doris Haldane of Moor Park. A tireless worker for the Red Cross and S.S.A.F.R.A. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral Service at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on Monday November 25th at 12.15 (West Chapel). No flowers but donations for S.S.A.F.R.A. may be sent to 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP.

HILL - On November 14th, in Comox, British Columbia, Canada, after short illness, Helen Joan (Vicki). She is survived by her son Robert of Comox and stepdaughter Adrian of Edmonton.

HOUSE - On November 18th, in Cromer Hospital, Muriel Mabel, aged 84 years, of High Kelling, Norfolk. Sister of Winnie Morelli and aunt of Joyce and Jean. Former Headmistress of the Elfrida Bellingham. Funeral Service Monday November 25th 12 noon at St Faith's Crematorium, Norwich.

HOWAT - On Monday November 18th, peacefully after a long illness, Hugh Stuart Howat, O.B.E. at St Georges Nursing Home, Cobham, aged 82. Funeral Service Randalls Park Crematorium, 2.30 pm on Monday November 25th. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Alzheimers Disease Society.

LANGLEY - On Monday November 18th, peacefully but suddenly, Graham Arthur, aged 71, of Ealing, London. Much loved husband of Li and father of Julia and Peter. Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium at 2 pm on Tuesday November 26th. Flowers and enquiries to W.S. Bond, (081) 567-0422. Donations, if desired, to The British Heart Foundation.

PAUL - On November 15th, after a short illness at Epsom General Hospital, Phyllis, aged 71 years. Dearly beloved mother of Gregory and stepmother of Alan and family. Funeral at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Monday November 25th at 1 pm. Flowers and enquiries to Alfred & Ewart Longhurst, 21-23 Kingston Road, Ewell, tel: (081) 393-1077.

DEATHS

LOUDON - On November 19th, at home after a courageous fight, Denis George Sandford, much loved husband of Mary, dearly loved father of Anthony, Rosemary, Jenny and Sarah and father-in-law to Juliet, David and John. Grandfather of 11 loving grandchildren. Funeral Service 2.30 pm Tuesday November 26th at St Martin's Westmeston. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to 'Cancer Research Campaign' c/o Frank Davey, 31 High St., Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

PITTS-TUCKER - On November 19th, peacefully at home, Joan Margery, much loved wife of Jim and mother of Roger, Gilly, Nick and Tom, sometime Senior Student of Newnham College, Cambridge, Magistrate in East Yorkshire and Hertfordshire. Funeral Service at Aldbury Church on Wednesday November 27th at 12 noon. No flowers but donations can be made to the Ian Rennie 'Hospice at Home', 71 Marsworth Road, Pitstone, Beds., LU7 9AX.

POINTER - On November 18th, after an illness borne with great courage, Simon Nicholas Peter Pointer, B.A. Oxon. Much loved and cherished son of Peter and Rosamund. Student of History, Writer and Cartographer, loved by so many he will be greatly missed. Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium Monday November 25th at 12.30 pm. No flowers by request but donations, if wished, may be sent to Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AA.

SHIRE - On November 16th, peacefully at home, Helena Mennie, widow of E.S. Shire. After the untimely death of her son John she leaves two daughters Alisoun and Christine and seven grandchildren. Requiescat in Pace. Donations may be sent to the Corbridge Trust, Robinson College, Cambridge.

SINGER-LAWRENCE - On November 19th, peacefully after a long illness, Paul Eric Singer-Lawrence (Leduc), Husband of Cora, father of Francine. Funeral Service November 25th 2.15 pm Putney Vale, followed by cremation. No flowers please, but donations to British Diabetic Association Research.

SMITHIES - On November 19th 1991, Edward, aged 49 years, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, after a courageous fight against A.I.D.S. Author, Teacher and Doctor of Philosophy. Beloved partner of Alan for 25 years. Funeral Service at Hendon Crematorium on Thursday November 28th at 2 pm. Flowers to Leverton & Sons, Funeral Directors, 212 Eversholt Street, London NW1, tel: (071) 387-6075.

SMITH - On November 19th, peacefully in his sleep after a long fight against lung cancer, Dr. Alasdair James Smith, much loved son, brother, uncle and respected late senior partner of Oxford Summertown Health Centre. Private funeral service at Oxford Crematorium on November 26th. Memorial Service for friends in mid January 1992.

STERNBERG - On November 19th 1991, Elizabeth, in Hampstead after a short illness bravely borne, peacefully, and with much dignity, a few days short of her 95th birthday. Much loved mother of Sir Sigmund Sternberg and Mrs Suzanne Perlman. Sadly missed by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and many friends.

SYNGE - On November 18th, peacefully at The Manor Nursing Home, Taunton, aged 90, John Millington (Jack) M.A. Cantab., formerly House Tutor at Liverpool College. Much loved uncle and great-uncle.

TOLEDO - On November 19th, peacefully at The Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea, Winifred Anne (née Wardlaw), aged 81. Much loved by Diane (Morcom), Christopher, Charmian, Darrell and Melanie. Funeral at The South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth, on Friday November 22nd at 9.30 am. All enquiries to H.G. Brown & Sanders, (081) 570-3057.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

JUSTHAM - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of David Justham will be held in Birmingham Cathedral at 11.30 am on Friday December 13th 1991. Further details, if required, from Michael Taylor, Central Television, tel: 021-643 9898, ext 4816.

ON THIS DAY

NOV 21 1925

Alexandra, queen consort of Edward VII, died peacefully in her sleep in her 81st year. The beauty of her youth remained throughout her life and it, together with her charm and warm nature, captured the affection of the people.

DEATH OF QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

An extract from the long obituary:

The reception of the Princess on her arrival on Saturday, March 7, 1863, was an extraordinary demonstration, and one that was never forgotten by herself and her husband, or by the masses of people who took part in it. Loyalty to the Throne combined with a sheer joy in the Princess's beauty, and with an admiration for the genial and manly character of the young Prince of Wales, to make the day a truly national festival. In his famous poem, published in *The Times* on the wedding day, the Poet Laureate, Alfred Tennyson, gave utterance to the feelings of the whole country that —

> Saxon or Norman or Dane are we,
> But all of us Danes in our welcome of thee!

The Times devoted over 20 columns of descriptive reporting, and all three leading articles, to the events of the day. When the Princess was first seen on board the Royal Yacht at Gravesend she was dressed in white, her colour heightened as if by nervous excitement, but with a frank display of wondering pleasure at her reception. At once the reporter perceives that her photographs do her an injustice, as they fail to render "the expressions of thorough good nature and good humour which beam from her countenance." The arrival of the Prince, "his face radiant with happiness," and the "earnest, hearty kiss" which he gave his bride on the deck of the yacht, and which threw the assembled myriads into ecstasies of delight, are vividly described.

London was decorated as it never had been before in living memory. London Bridge had broken out into ravens, elephants, tripods of burning incense, and figures of huge Danish warriors. Vast crowds filled the long route through the City to Paddington, and at intervals, the police being far too few in number, hemmed in the Royal carriage itself. At one point the Princess, by her presence of mind, saved a man from being crushed in one of the wheels. All accounts agree in praising her calmness and composure, and the enchanting smile with which she charmed all beholders. The procession drove through an array of 17,000 Volunteers drawn up in Hyde Park ...

So the Princess passed on to Windsor, and the marriage was celebrated in full state in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on Monday, March 10. The Prince wore a general's uniform covered with the mantle of the Garter, while the Princess wore a magnificent dress of white satin with a train of silver moiré, and, out of regard for her new country, an abundance of Honiton lace. Her train was borne by eight unmarried daughters of dukes, marquesses, and earls, and she was supported by her father and the Duke of Cambridge.

Among the invited guests was Charles Dickens, who wrote:-

The Princess's face was very pale and full of a sort of awe and wonder. It was the face of no ordinary bride, not simply a timid, shrinking girl, but one with a distinctive character of her own, prepared to act a part greatly.

And Thackeray, who was also present, said that as he watched her with her bridesmaids advancing up the nave he was reminded of the princesses in the fairy tale who had been changed into swans.

In the afternoon the young couple left for Osborne where they spent the honeymoon; and in the evening there was a general illumination, which in London was of special magnificence. The Government threw open the six principal theatres to the public free of charge. Some may remember that the view of London Bridge on the occasion was made the subject of a wonderful picture by Mr. Holman Hunt, now in the University Gallery at Oxford. All over the Empire there was the same universal outburst of joy, manifested in bonfires and illuminations ...

MEMORIAL SERVICES

McCALL - A Service of Thanksgiving for the lives of Robin Home McCall who died on the 27th October 1991 and his beloved wife Joan who died on 15th December 1989 will be held in Winchester Cathedral on 3rd December 1991 at 12.15pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

POLNAY - Peter de Polnay, author, died in Paris on November 21st, 1984. His wife, son, family and friends remember him with love. A mass will be said in Saint-Nicolas-du-Chardonnet, in Paris, on Thursday 21st.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEROY DEAREST Letter arrived after one month. Sarah Murphy wishes discussions. New tiding starts 261, call 6.45 am weekdays before room-mates up or write 361 - 1027 davie V6E 4L2. Yours ever S.E.

MICK PATRICK would like to send his love and thanks to Eric, Malcolm, Charlotte and John, Keith, Martin and Sue and Jean who were all so wonderful to him following his recent accident. You have all rewritten the Dictionary definition of the word 'Friend'

OLD KARACHI POLO CLUB. Would whoever found the membership records of the Club on an Ascot train on 16th PM, please contact Club Secretary 071-571 8111. To the finders advantage!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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COMPANIES ACT 1985, s 176
UNITED MIZRAHI FINANCIAL CORPORATION LIMITED
Registered in England
No 1601169
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:
(1) The above-named company has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase
(2) The amount of the permissable capital payment for the shares in question is £1,835,000 and the resolution approving payment out of capital was passed on the 15th day of November, 1991
(3) The statutory declaration of the directors' and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the company's registered office at Finsbury House, 23 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7UB
(4) Any creditor of the company may at any time within five weeks immediately following the 15th day of November, 1991 apply to the court under section 176 of the said Act for an order prohibiting the payment
M. WEBER
DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICES

GOSH COMMUNICATIONS LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act, 1986 that a Meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor) London, W2 6LF, on Friday the 29th day of November, 1991 at 3.30 pm for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co. 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors
Dated the 14th day of November 1991
B J SAYLE, Director

IN THE MATTER OF P G SECURITIES LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Robin Michael Addy of Cork Gully, Shelley House, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7DQ was appointed Liquidator of the said Company on 14 November 1991 by the Members.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above-named Company which is being voluntarily wound up are required, on or before the 6 day of December 1991 to send in their full forenames and surname, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Robin Michael Addy of Cork Gully Shelley House 3 Noble Street London EC2V 7DQ the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved
Dated this 14 day of November 1991
R M Addy, Liquidator

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
RED SQUARE FINE ARTS LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at No 1 Riding House Street, London, W1A 3AS on 29 November 1991 at 10.00 a.m., for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at No 1 Riding House Street, London W1A 3AS between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on Wednesday, 27 November 1991 and Thursday 28 November 1991

Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge a full statement of account and (unless attending in person) a proxy in the form attached at No 1 Riding House Street, London, W1A 3AS no later than 12 noon Thursday, 28 November 1991. Secured creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting
By order of the Board.
13 November 1991
V ASRIEV
Director

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
FOCUS LIGHTING LIMITED
Registered number: 899452 Trading name: Focus Nature of business: Electrical Lighting Retailers Trade classification: 21. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 14 November 1991 Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Lloyds Bank Plc Joint Administrative Receivers: Ian David Holland and John Samuel Francis Bennett (office holder nos. 2346 and 5393). Address: Casson Beckman & Partners Hobson House, 155 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BJ.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE
THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 6.124(1)
In the matter of THOMAS HULL
Brighton County Court
No: 412 of 1991
Notice is hereby given that G C A Morphitis of 401 St John Street, London EC1V 4LH was appointed Trustee of the above named on 14 October 1991.
G C A MORPHITIS
TRUSTEE

The Insolvency Act 1986
SOUTH EAST PLANT HIRE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Terence John Roper F.I.P.A. of 4, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 16th October 1991.
Dated this 18th November 1991
T.J. ROPER, Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
GOODWOOD SYSTEMS LTD
Registered number: 1388690 Nature of business: Joinery - Shopfitters Trade classification: 23. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 13/11/1991 Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc Joint Administrative Receivers: Peter G Mills and Michael J C Oldham (office holder nos 7948 and 7817) Address: 1 Riding House Street, London W1A 3AS

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
R B M (Data Services) Limited
Registered number: 1496125 Nature of business: Dormant Company Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 7th November 1991 Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank Plc Joint Administrative Receivers: Raymond Hocking and Peter Richard Copp (office holder nos: 2322 and 1778). Address: Stoy Hayward 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Deal Holdings Limited
formerly trading at 8 Hayne Street, Charter House Square, London EC1A 9HH
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Westminster Chamber of Commerce, 177 Regent Street London, W1R 8DJ on Friday 29th November 1991 at 3.30 pm, for the purposes mentioned in sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Buchler Phillips & Co, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on Wednesday 27th November 1991 and Thursday 28th November 1991

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge a full statement of account and an informal proof of debt and unless attending in person a proxy at Buchler Phillips & Co, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF no later than 12 noon on Thursday 28th November 1991. Secured creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting
By Order of the Board
14th November 1991
J Cosson
Director

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CROSSLAND LEISURE (SUDBURY) LIMITED
I, William Jason Hugh Elles hereby give notice that on the 6 day of November 1991 I was appointed liquidator of the above-named company.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors are required, on or before the 23 day of December 1991 to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to me and if so required by notice in writing from me, are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved
Dated this 6 day of November 1991.
W J H ELLES
LIQUIDATOR
ERNST & YOUNG
WESSEX HOUSE,
19 THREEFIELD LANE,
SOUTHAMPTON SO1 1TW.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106 (1)
KANE LIMITED
IN CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Dermot Brendan Coakley, Chartered Accountant, of Leach Bright & Partners Langton Priory, Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5EH was appointed Liquidator of the above named company on 8th November 1991.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to me at the above address.

No further public notice or advertisement to prove debts will be given
Dated this 13th day of November 1991
D B Coakley, Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CROSSLAND LEISURE (HOLDINGS) LIMITED
I, William Jason Hugh Elles hereby give notice that on the 5 day of November 1991 I was appointed liquidator of the above named company

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors are required, on or before the 23 December 1991 to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to me and if so required by notice in writing from me, are personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved
Dated this 5 day of November 1991
W J H ELLES
LIQUIDATOR
ERNST & YOUNG
WESSEX HOUSE,
19 THREEFIELD LANE,
SOUTHAMPTON SO1 1TW.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CROSSLAND LEISURE (SCOTLAND) LIMITED
I, William Jason Hugh Elles hereby give notice that on the 6 day of November 1991 I was appointed liquidator of the above named company

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors are required on or before the 23 day of December 1991 to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to me and if so required by notice in writing from me, are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved
Dated this 6 day of November 1991
W J H ELLES
LIQUIDATOR
ERNST & YOUNG
WESSEX HOUSE
19 THREEFIELD LANE
SOUTHAMPTON SO1 1TW

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CROSSLAND LEISURE (ILKESTON) LIMITED
I, William Jason Hugh Elles hereby give notice that on the 5 day of November 1991 I was appointed liquidator of the above named company.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors are required on or before the 23 day of December 1991 to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to me and if so required by notice in writing from me, are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved
Dated this 6 day of November 1991
W J H ELLES
LIQUIDATOR
ERNST & YOUNG
WESSEX HOUSE,
19 THREEFIELD LANE,
SOUTHAMPTON SO1 1TW

The Insolvency Act 1986
MULTI LINE MARKETING LTD
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that John Colin Shuttleworth, of Shuttleworth & Co., of 20 Hillcroft, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2PS, was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the Creditors on 14th November 1991
Dated this 18th November 1991
J.C. Shuttleworth Liquidator

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receivers
Dot For Dot Printers Limited
Registered number 01887854. Former Name of Company: None Trading Name: (if different from Company Name) None. Nature of Business: Commercial Printers Trade Classification: 10 Date of Appointment of Administrative Receivers: 13 November 1991 Person Appointing the Joint Administrative Receivers: Midland Bank plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: D J Buchler & I P Phillips. Office Holder numbers 002636 & 005134 of: Buchler Phillips & Co., 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF.

To Place Your Classified Advertisement

Please telephone the number listed below between 9am and 6pm, Monday to Friday (late evening 7.30 pm on Thursdays) 9.30am and 12.30pm on Saturdays.

Private Advertisers:

Private	071-481 4000
Birth, Marriage and Death Notices	071-481 4000

Trade Advertisers:

Appointments	071-481 4481
Business to Business	071-481 1982
International Advertisers	071-481 3024
Motors	071-481 4422
Personal	071-481 1920
Property	071-481 1986
Public Appointments	071-481 1066
Education Appointments	071-481 1066
Travel	071-481 1989
U.K. Holidays	071-488 3698

Alternatively **FAX** your advertisment to
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Court and Social Advertising (tel enquiries)	071-782 7347
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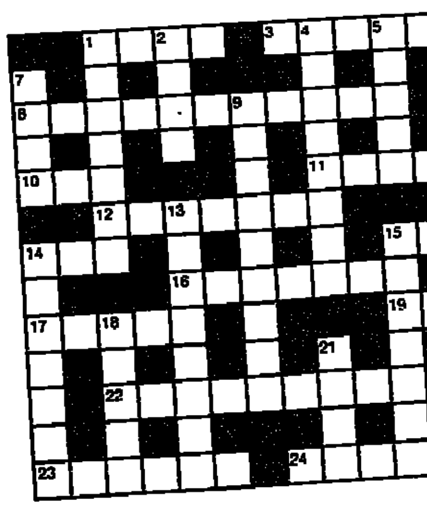
Birth, Marriage and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone for publication the following day.
Please telephone by 5.00pm Monday - Thursday, 4.00pm Friday,
9.30 am-12.30pm Saturday for Monday's paper.
Marriage notices not appearing on the Court & Social Page may also be accepted by telephone.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2644



ACROSS
1 Hunted animals (4)
3 Whisky (6)
8 Balance (11)
10 Chinese "path" philosophy (3)
11 Eagle nest (5)
12 Work avoider (7)
14 Fish ovary (3)
15 Sardonic (3)
16 Wine year (7)
17 Plainclothes (5)
19 Longest Swiss river (3)
22 Endlessly (2,9)
23 Car shelter (6)
24 Absent (4)

DOWN
1 Sugar energy (7)
2 Grind (4)
4 Yardsticks (8)
5 East Indonesian island (5)
6 Stockings, socks (7)
7 Undershirt (4)
9 Severed (6,3)
13 Alluring (8)
14 Cavorting (7)
15 Rich (7)
18 Knack (5)
20 Slope (4)
21 Ski surface (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2643
ACROSS: 1 Zodiac 5 Cowl 8 Lumpy 9 Applied 11 Schedule 13 Chow 15 Recession 18 Hope 19 Fail safe 22 Preview 22 Filth 24 Feed 25 Nazism
DOWN: 2 Oomph 3 Ivy 4 Charles Darwin 5 Copt 6 Weigh in 7 Blush 10 Down 12 Dock 14 Kill 15 Replete 16 Chip 17 Meths 20 Aries 21 Bind 23 Fez

WINNING MOVE
Solution from page 22: 1 ... Qxh2+! 2 Kxh2 Nxf3++ 3 Kh3 Ng5+ 4 Kg4 h5+! 5 Kf5 g6+ 6 Kh6 Kf8! and 7 ... Nh7 mate follows

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

CITY OF HOPE (15): John Sayles's dark, multi-layered tale of conflicts simmering in a New Jersey town. *Flawed, but crackling with electricity.* Starring Vincent Spano, Joe Morton.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Gate (071-727 4043) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

DEKALOG PARTS 9 AND 10 (12): The last two from Kieslowski's masterly "Ten Commandments" cycle: a bitter tale about an impotent husband, and a wry comedy about family greed.
Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY (15): Wall Street greed (Danny DeVito) versus *human* decency (Gregory Peck). Muted comic variations on a familiar theme. Director. Norman Jewison.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Whiteleys (071-792 3332)

SHAKING THE TREE (15): Tedious slog through the personal problems of four Chicago chums. With Arye Gross, Gale Hansen; director, Duane Clark.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) *Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148)* MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

TOTO THE HERO (15): Jaunty, absurdist comedy about youth, old age and life's disappointments from talented new Belgian director Jaco van Dormael. With Michel Bouquet, Thomas Godet.
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

◆ WHAT ABOUT BOB? (PG): Phobia-mad Bill Murray drives psychiatrist Richard Dreyfuss close to the edge. Sweet, crazy comedy from Frank Oz.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310)

MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

CURRENT

◆ BOYZ N THE HOOD (15): Black urban drama from hot-shot director John Singleton, piled high with homilies, but atmospheric. With Larry Fishburne, rap artist Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

◆ THE COMMITMENTS (15): Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a largely amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Plaza (071-497 9999) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

◆ EDWARD II (18): Riveting reworking of Marlowe's play by Derek Jarman; words and images leap out at the audience. Steven Waddington and Andrew Tiernan as star-crossed royal lovers; Tilda Swinton as the exasperated Queen.
Barbican (071-638 8891) Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

◆ THE FISHER KING (15): Jeff Bridges and Robin Williams as two lost souls from the myths of time up against modern adversity. Wayward, overblown Terry Gilliam film with droll moments.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Leicester Square (0426 915683) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

◆ FLIRTING (12): Steps to maturity at segregated Aussie boarding schools in 1965. Delightful sequel to *The Year My Voice Broke* from director John Duigan. With Noah Taylor, Thandie Newton.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

THE FOUR FEATHERS (U): Cowardly army officer redeems himself in the Sudan. Korda's glorious 1939 version of A.E.W. Mason's classic imperial novel. Starring John Clements, Ralph Richardson, June Duprez.
Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Minema (071-235 4225).

◆ RAMBLING ROSE (15): Innocent sexpot turns all heads in 1935 Georgia. Episodic, benign, hugely entertaining; *memorable performances from Laura* Dern, Robert Duvall. Director, Martha Coolidge.
Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353).

SHATTERED (15): Amnesia, murder and plastic surgery in the San Francisco area. Should be fun, but director Wolfgang Petersen plays *his hand* badly. With Tom Berenger, Greta Scacchi, Bob Hoskins.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London
■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

◪ BECKET: Riveting performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in Anouilh's play on the relationship between Henry II and the archbishop.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 165mins.

□ THE COUP: Norman Beaton as a deposed president in Mustapha Matura's quirky study of Trinidad politics.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats today, Sat, 2.30pm. 145mins.

■ DAMNED FOR DESPAIR: Masterly production by Stephen Daldry of Tirso de Molina's drama of a *cynical* hermit and a repentant thug.
Gate, Prince Albert Pub, *11 Pembridge* Road, W11 (071-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. 160mins.

■ DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Chilean political drama.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

□ DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER: Simon Cadell in average, French-boulevard farce.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 120mins.

□ THE HUNTING OF THE SNARK: Good things in this vast, elaborate spectacular but the storyline is a needle in a haystack.
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

□ IT'S RALPH: Timothy West, Jack Shepherd, Connie Booth in rickety Hugh Whitemore piece about betrayed ideals. A play that split the critics.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm, mat Tues, 3pm. 135mins.

■ THE INVISIBLE MAN: Jon Finch in merry stage version of H.G. Wells' thriller. Mind-baffling special effects.
Theatre Royal Stratford East, Gerry Raffles Square, E15 (081-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm. 150mins. Final week.

■ JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Jason Donovan sports a golden wig for this gaudy, brash revival.
Palladium, Argyll Street, W1 (071-494 5037). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 170mins.

□ KVETCH: Steven Berkoff's trip into the East-End Jewish *psyche*: vivid but thinnish. Co-stars Anita Dobson.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 3pm and 8.30pm. 140mins.

◪ PARTY TIME: Dorothy Tutin and *Barry Foster head* a starry cast in new but short Pinter: tyrants drink while their opponents die. Not vintage but still with the power to chill. Preceded by *Mountain Language*.
Almeida, Almeida Street, London N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 90mins.

□ THE REVENGERS' COMEDIES: Alan Ayckbourn's impressively ambitious, two-part comedy centred on the meeting of an incongruous pair (Griff Rhys Jones and Lia Williams). Less fun than one might hope, but worth the time.
Strand, Strand, WC2 (071-240 0300). Part 1: Mon, Thurs, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Part 2: Tues, Wed, Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm. 150mins each.

◪ THE RIDE DOWN MT MORGAN: Arthur Miller's disappointingly one-sided play where Tom Conti argues the case for bigamy.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. 150mins.

□ A SWELL PARTY: Four singers, two pianists in likeable tribute to Cole Porter's debonair wit and wry melodies.
Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5.30pm and *8.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm. 140mins.*

■ TARTUFFE: Paul Eddington dithers, John Sessions cons, Felicity Kendal is bold in a nearly successful Molière.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 120mins.

□ THUNDERBIRDS F.A.B. — THE NEXT GENERATION: The stage version of cult television show, strictly for devotees.
Ambassadors, West Street, London WC2 (071-836 6111). Mon-Thurs, 8.30pm, Fri, 7pm and 9.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm. 105mins.

□ TOVARICH: Natalia Makarova and Robert Powell as Tsarist exiles working as servants in Thirties Paris. When funny, very funny; but slow elsewhere.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 160mins.

◪ A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS: Lively parade of tuneful oldies. Good fun.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri, Sat, 6.15pm and 9pm. 120mins.

□ WAITING FOR GODOT: Rik Mayall, Adrian Edmondson find comedy but lose the depth and pathos in Beckett's play.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5040). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, 5pm and 8.30pm, Sat, 4pm and 8pm. 135mins.

□ WHEN SHE DANCED: Vanessa Redgrave unforgettable in Sherman's artful play about Isadora Duncan and the hazards of communication.
Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat 3pm. 135mins.

■ WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Return of last winter's hit version by Alan Bennett: witty and wonderful.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. 205mins.

LONG RUNNERS: □ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ◪ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (071-867 1044) . . . □ Carmen Jones: Old Vic (071-928 7616)
◪ Cats: New London (071-405 0072)
◪ Five Guys Named Moe: Lyric (071-494 5045) . . . □ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909)
■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) . . . □ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244)
□ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . □ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-494 5075)
◪ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . □ The Woman In Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

CARITAS: British composer Robert Saxton's first opera is premiered at *Britain's leading showcase for new* music, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. The opera is based on Arnold Wesker's play of the same name, which the playwright revised for the composer, and is set in the 14th century at the time of the peasant uprising. Opera North gives the first performance under the baton of Diego Masson. Director: Patrick Mason.
Theatre Royal and Opera House, Drury Lane, Wakefield (Festival box office 0484 430808). 8pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Alan Bennett turns to the tragic life of George III for his latest play, based on the story of the king who, in 1788, began to show symptoms of the mental derangement that eventually led to the Regency. This will be Bennett's third play for the National, following his two earlier successes with *Single Spies* and his adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows*. Nigel Hawthorne takes the leading role. The production begins previews tonight and will open on Thursday.
Lyttelton (National), South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252), 7.30pm

THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE: Peter Wood directs Roger Allam and Simon Russell Beale as *the two halves of a good and evil man: new version of the tale based on Robert* Louis Stevenson's original, not the numerous film versions. The production begins previews tonight and opens on Wednesday.
Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2. (071-638 8891), 7.30pm.

THE CABINET MINISTER: A new production of Pinero's 1890 comedy with Maureen Lipman playing a society hostess on the make and Derek Nimmo her sorely-tried consort. Braham Murray directs. Opening night.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-867 1115), 7pm.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: Nancy Duncan's inaugural season as artistic director features three London premieres by American choreographers: Nina Wiener's award-winning *Wind Devil*; *Freedom of Information* by the late Arnie Zane; and *Flee As A Bird* by LCDT's previous artistic director Dan Wagoner.
Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), 7.30pm.

THE ROYAL BALLET: A new mixed bill by Covent Garden's resident company contrasts the established genius of the late George Balanchine with works by two budding Royal Ballet choreographers. William Tuckett presents the world premiere of his latest work, *Present Histories*, while Jonathan Burrows gets a first Opera House airing for his *Stoics Quartet*. Balanchine's *Agon* and *Symphony in C* — two of the greatest works of the 20th century — complete the bill.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), 7.30pm.

NEW LONDON CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Ronald Corp's newly formed children's choir joins the New London Orchestra, performing specially commissioned songs by Diana Burrell, Brian Chapple, Simon Bainbridge and Gary Carpenter in a mixed programme.
St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (071-222 1061), 7.30pm.

PROKOFIEV CENTENARY: Mstislav Rostropovich conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in music by Prokofiev: *Russian Overture*, Violin Concerto (with soloist Itzhak Perlman), and Sixth Symphony.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), 8pm.

LE DESERT DE RETZ: One of the most famous folly-gardens in France, Le *Désert de Retz was created by a rich* dilettante called Racine de Monville in the late 18th century, and delighted Marie Antoinette, Thomas Jefferson and King Gustavus II of Sweden, all of whom went on to do likewise. In its decay it was a popular haunt for Colette and the Surrealists. Now grandly restored, its splendours are documented here in mind-boggling detail.
RIBA Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, London W1 (071-580 5533). Mon-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until December 21.

THE TALK OF THE TOWN: The Cartoon Gallery, *recently installed in new* premises, celebrates its 21 years of existence with a show of cartoons by six of the wittiest artists now working for *The New Yorker*.
The Cartoon Gallery, 44 *Museum* Street London WC1 (071-242 5335). Mon-Sat, 10.30am-5.30pm.

Shaw tells his disgusting joke

THEATRE

The Philanderer
Hampstead

SHAW had high hopes for *The Philanderer*, but they were not rewarded. The play flopped in 1905; and G.B.S. eventually dismissed it as "a combination of mechanical farce and realistic filth which quite disgusts me". That is the judgment that Brian Cox's production seeks to reverse, primarily by tacking back the last act that Shaw decided was too intellectual, gloomy and uncommercial.

All the existing play survives. The philanderer Charteris still spends his time ridding himself of the "jealous termagant" who has pretended to be an advanced woman, and wooing an authentic feminist. He still fobs Julia off on a convenient friend, the physician Paramore, and is himself coolly rejected by Grace. The play still opens with the hurly-burly of the chaise-longue, and largely occurs in an "Ibsen Club", where it is mandatory for men to be unmanly and women unwomanly.

As Cox stages the play, a stained-glass Hedda Gabler dominates the clubland scene. That is as it should be. Shaw's scattershot satire is aimed at doctrinaire Ibsenism, doctors, vivisection, even theatre critics; but its main target is Victorian gender-bending: meaning the confusions occurring at a time when women were fretting against their silken reins.

Julia leaves the original play safely snaffled; unhappy, angry, but ready to make the most of Paramore. But Grace strikes a cynical note — "they think this is a happy ending, our lords and masters" — and in the hitherto unperformed coda we see what she means. The Paramores have reached their fourth anniversary, but neither is celebrating. Suddenly Charteris arrives, along with Julia and Grace's conventional fathers; and a debate about divorce is under way.

Like much of the play, this is dated. The old men persistently growl "you're a damned cad" and "remember the sacredness of marriage vows" before recalling that "quickie" divorces are to be had in America. As so often, Shaw is attacking English hypocrisy; but what is most apparent is his distaste for the sentimentality surrounding marriage. When Jonathan Coy's Paramore bluntly admits that he does not love Eleanor David's Julia, we can at last see why Shaw classified *The Philanderer* among his "plays unpleasant".

Coy, comically distraught and absurdly infatuated earlier, now radiates genuine resentment. David, though doubtless as puzzled as us by her shifting motives towards the end, has that intensity of passion which Shaw could never comprehend. Clive Owen is right to play Charteris, not as the cool English seducer the text suggests, but as a slippery, nervous Irishman; for Charteris basically expresses his author's own disdain for emotion and contempt for sex.

Here, finally, is what makes the play fascinating and ugly. It gives a glimpse into the mind of the man who once wrote that "what people call love is impossible save as a joke between two strangers meeting accidentally in an inn or a forest". In both its revised and original form it is, as he himself said, a bit disgusting.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Woman scorned: Eleanor David as Julia Craven, fobbed off and forsaken

ROCK

Hue and Cry
Town and Country

PATRICK and Gregory Kane, collectively Hue and Cry, first permeated the national pop consciousness in 1987 with their *Seduced and Abandoned* LP, a clever and confident melding of Glaswegian attitude and New York club scene soul. But the parallel emergence of several other young Scots bands specialising in similarly moody, Caledonian-American pop made it convenient to view the pair as merely slick and (because of their self-conscious use of US reference points) imitative stylists.

Four years on, and with as many albums behind them, the Kane brothers treated the London leg of the year's second UK tour as an opportunity to rewrite this unflattering summation of their career. This meant offering more than just a run-through of accumulated hits. Chart singles and album tracks alike were presented in what were often radically reworked forms, as if the duo were determined to win over cynics with their dextrous handling of form and content, and the sincerity behind the smart words and sharp stage clothes.

This extra effort was not entirely necessary, however, as it has always been clear that Patrick Kane (rector of Glasgow University, *Scotsman* columnist and journalistic contributor to other assorted qualities) has a fine, flexible voice, with more shade and swing than many contemporaries. His phrasing is reminiscent of Bobby Darin or, on slower numbers, the young Vic Damone. His ingrained tendency to over-perform is the only thing that jars, as it seems as if he has convinced himself an intro is something to improvise over, a tune something to weave endlessly around.

Consequently, despite highlights that included "Alligator Man", "Three Foot Blasts of Fire" and the recent album title track, "Stars Crash Down", it seemed not entirely coincidental that the duo were at their most impressive when the three band-members left the stage briefly, allowing Gregory Kane to give his brother a keyboard-only accompaniment to Stevie Wonder's "He's Misstra Know-It-All" and their own "Remote".

Amid an evening of modish and complex rearrangements of already intelligent material, it was in this relatively simple setting that the potential of Hue and Cry shone most clearly.

ALAN JACKSON

THEATRE

Wallflowering
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

THE impact of feminism on ballroom dancing has probably not been seriously considered. Peta Murray's play appears to be setting out to do so, albeit with jokes — and rightly with jokes, since only the couples themselves could pretend that their drilled hopping and bobbing is anything but a terpsichorean calamity.

The upper level of Michael Taylor's cleverly simple set is a dance floor spacious enough for Cliff and Peg to waltz up and down, while an unseen piano pounds out "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" in strict tempo. He leads, and she follows.

Feminism offers a different programme: she leads. This, we are shown, is supposed to be making a dog's dinner of Peg's marriage to Cliff. But although the spirit of their confessions to the audience plainly complains that women's lib has come like an earthquake into their lives, what we are actually shown is a microscopic tremor.

Murray follows the all-too-familiar tradition of hinting at rebellion, but ending up with her rebel pretty much where she was at the start. Cliff (Sam Kelly) agrees to rehearse a different dance, and has owned up to his silly pretences of youthful success, but deep down nothing has changed. More to the point: during the play, and particularly in the second half, nothing looks likely to change for more than a couple of seconds. Peg (Gillian Hanna) flutters about the home like an Ayckbourn fusspot, loses her temper once, memorably, and spoils a veal marengo by failing to add the ingredient of love; but she is no Shirley Valentine and, far from following the urgings of her liberated women friends, the very fact that she has such friends comes to seem less and less imaginable.

This is not to say that the company of Hanna and Kelly is unenjoyable. Their characters seem rather old-fashioned for the 1990s, but in the *play's original form they were* Australian, which must account for it. With his wanly smiling features, Kelly does suggest the puzzlement of a man whose life somehow vanished into a black hole between boyhood and baldness. Penny Ciniewicz moves her cast of two credibly enough about the stage, but by the end the characters themselves are no longer credible.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERTS

St Petersburg PO/Temirkanov
Barbican

THE last Shostakovich irony is that the name "Leningrad" will now be in use only as the title of one of his symphonies. The St Petersburg Philharmonic, appearing in this country for the first time since their new christening, brought with them two other symphonies of his, and rather suggested that the more intrinsic ironies of his music are, with the change in Russia, evening themselves out.

Both the Sixth Symphony and the Tenth begin with immense slow movements that have been heard, particularly since the posthumous publication of the composer's memoirs, as the sound of writhing mental agony and of protest voicing itself in the only language possible. Both end with quick movements whose triumphs we have liked to hear as hollow victories. But here the meditations and the gaieties alike seemed to be offered at face value: fully, impressively, characterfully, but without the sense of a suffering subject operating under compulsion. What came across from these performances was, instead, an overpowering sense of relief and release.

This surely had a lot to do with Yuri Temirkanov's manner. He is by no means an undemonstrative conductor: on the contrary, his gestures — with free hands drawing upwards, with the flicker of a palm or a finger, with hunching shoulders — seem intended more for the audience's benefit than the orchestra's. But the effect of all that is curiously selfless; he connives at intimating his own redundancy. For long stretches offering no discernible beat to his players, he suggests that he could conduct them with one hand tied behind his back, or indeed both. A kind of pride arches over into humility, as these passionate sounds appear to be looming out of the orchestra without any prompting at all.

It was perhaps the absence of an urgent, intense, activating spirit that made the Shostakovich performances seem so objective as well as so splendid. The start of the Sixth Symphony was, like the *Khovanshchina* prelude heard in the same concert, the opening of a story, a musical "once upon a time". The circus frolics of the same symphony's finale were just that: an excess of high spirits. And the second movement of the Tenth, a brutal caricature of Stalin according to Shostakovich's *Testimony*, was a stunning display of high-speed orchestral virtuosity.

It remains, happily, a very Russian virtuosity. The woody clarinets, poetic in Rachmaninov, cheeky in Shostakovich, are a particular national treasure; so too the blaring trumpets, including a soloist who can blister the ear at a hundred paces. Temirkanov's unusual placing adds further distinctiveness. Seated on the far right behind the second violins, and on the level, the horns maintain a veiled quality, while the harps at the front left are brought into jangling prominence, and cellos and double basses spilling across the middle of the platform give the orchestral voice a firm bass centre, or presumably would do in a hall more responsive to low registers.

In Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto this bass voice, having to speak through the piano, sometimes produced a confused impression, but Eliso Virsaladze's performance was commandingly intensive and authoritative, giving no quarter.

These two all-Russian programmes, in an extraordinarily Russian-dominated couple of months in London concert halls, then ended with the second act of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, or most of it, paraded as a tray of goodies.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Arts features, page 17

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THE RIDE DOWN MT. MORGAN
by ARTHUR MILLER
Dir by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE
"THEATRE AT ITS MOST IRRESISTIBLE" S.Times
"A REASON TO SHOUT FOR JOY" Time Mag
Mon - Sat 7.30
Mats Thur & Sat 2.30

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

WINTLE
(a) To roll or swing from side to side, to reciprocate in a pedestrian way, from the Flemish *windtelen*, ultimately from the Latin *volutare*: "From him that wears the star and garter/To him that wintles in a halter."

VETIVER
(a) Cuscus roots, the roots of the grain of the African millet, from the Tamil *vettiveru* a root: "The Anatherum muricatum, called vetiver by the French, and Khus in India."

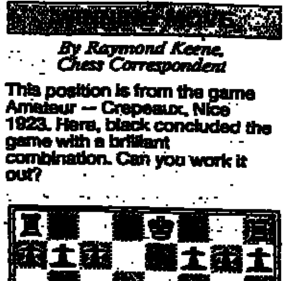
SURMULLET
(a) A species of red mullet, *Mullus surmuletus*, admired by the Romans for its colour changes as it died, from the French *surmulet*: "Asinius Celer purchased a surmullet at the price of eight thousand sestertii."

ENCOIGNURE
(c) A piece of furniture, especially of ornamental design, made with an angle to fit into a corner, from the French *en-* in + *coin* a corner: "Among the masterpieces of French furniture in Windsor Castle are a commode and a pair of encoignures."

[illegible]

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Amateur — Crepeaux, Nice 1923. Here, black concluded the game with a brilliant combination. Can you work it out?



The solution appears on "Announcements and Personal", page 21.

هكذا من الأصل

BBC1

6.00 Ceefax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News

9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on using animals for medical research **9.50 Hot Chefs.** Bruno Loubet prepares salted cod and lobster

10.00 News, regional news and weather **10.05 Playdays.** For the very young (s) **10.25 Rupert.** Animated adventures (r) **10.35 Health UK** presented by Martyn Lewis and Linda Mitchell. Includes advice on how relaxation techniques can relieve stress

11.00 News, regional news and weather **11.05 No Kidding.** Quiz game show for families, presented by Mike Smith with Kate Copstick (s) **11.30 People Today.** Includes Phillip Hodson with couples who have had to struggle against the odds to preserve their relationship. With **news,** regional news and weather at **12.00**

12.20 Pebble Mill. Alan Titchmarsh is joined by Davy Spillane, one of the world's leading exponents of the Uilleann pipes **12.55 Regional news** and weather

1.00 One O'Clock News and weather

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) **1.50 Going for Gold**

2.15 Film: Crashout (1955, b/w) starring William Bendix and Arthur Kennedy. Tough and fast-moving drama about six convicts on the run in search of a fortune in gold coins. As they get nearer the cache their number gradually diminishes. Directed by Lewis R. Foster

3.40 Ready, Teddy, Go. Phillip Schofield looks behind the scenes at the preparations for this year's *Children in Need* appeal **4.05 Get Your Own Back.** Game show which affords children the chance to get their own back on a selection of adults (s) **4.20 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse** (r) **4.35 The Dark Season.** Episode two of the six-part sci-fi drama serial (s)

5.00 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (s)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather

6.30 Regional News magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours

7.00 Top of the Pops (s)

7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s)

8.00 Schofield's Europe. Part two of Phillip Schofield's European city odyssey finds him in off-the-beaten-track Amsterdam. (Ceefax) (s)

8.30 An Actor's Life for Me. Likeable comedy series starring John Gordon-Sinclair as a permanently aspiring actor, this week exaggerating his capabilities when being interviewed for a part in a film. (Ceefax) (s)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather

A comic master of timing and gesture: Jasper Carrott (9.30pm)

9.30 Canned Carrot.

● CHOICE: Jasper Carrott returns for a new series, the mixture exactly as before. This means that the viewer has plenty to choose from. There is Jasper perched on his stool, sounding off about a funny old world which can leave him on the wrong end of anything from sex surveys to bed bugs. The writing is clever and economical, witness a reference to the former President Reagan and her husband Ron. Robert Powell is back to partner Jasper in their detective spoof, potentially the weakest link but still managing to squeeze the odd drop or two from a dry lemon. Steve Punt and Hugh Dacre contribute their usual guest sketch, this time behind a Post Office counter, and Jasper reappears as the wordless Wiggy. But Jasper is at his best with words. He is also best by himself, a master of timing and gesture, and the worthy heir to a great tradition of stand-up comics. Except that he does it sitting down. (Ceefax) (s).

10.00 So You Think You've Got Troubles. Hard-edged comedy by Laurence Marks andMaurice Gran starring Warren Mitchell as a Jew re-located by his company from London to Belfast.

10.30 Question Time presented by Peter Sissons from Cardiff. Tonight's panel is Alf Gooden of the Welsh Development Corporation, Baroness Blatch and MPs Ken Livingstone and Dafydd Wigley

11.35 Spenser for Hire. Drama series about a Boston-based private detective, starring Robert Urich. Tonight he investigates the suspicious death of a high-powered executive. **12.20am Weather**

BBC 2

8.00 Breakfast News 8.15 Westminster

9.00 Daytime on 2. Educational programmes

2.00 News and weather followed by **You and Me** (r) **2.15 The History Man.** Brian McNerney visits medieval Bungay Castle in Suffolk (r) **2.20 Raging Belles.** A documentary following the build-up to the British ladies' wrestling championship belt bout at Leamington Spa between the 20-stone Klondyke Kate and the trimmer Nicky Monroe (r). (Ceefax)

3.00 News and weather followed by **Westminster Live 3.50 News,** regional news and weather

4.00 Catchword. Quiz game show for word buffs, hosted by Paul Coia

4.30 Trivial Pursuit. The last round of the game show based on the popular board game. Presented by Rory McGrath (r). (Ceefax) (s)

5.00 Behind the Headlines. Jeffrey Archer and Tony Banks MP debate whether Brussels is meddling in Britain's domestic affairs with Lord Clinton-Davies and the editor of *The Sunday Times* Andrew Neil. Plus, should the age of consent for gays be reduced to 16?

5.30 Food and Drink (r) (s)

6.00 Film: One of Our Spies Is Missing (1966). Robert Vaughn and David McCallum star in another *Man from UNCLE* adventure, silly but fun. Napoleon Solo and Ilya Kuryakin investigate the mysterious disappearance of cats from the Soho district and end up in Paris where they uncover a sinister scheme for a rejuvenation drug. Directed by E. Darrell Hallenbeck. Wales: Delia Smith's Christmas 6.30 Deutsch Direkt 6.55 Through the Looking Glass 7.25 Fast Feasts

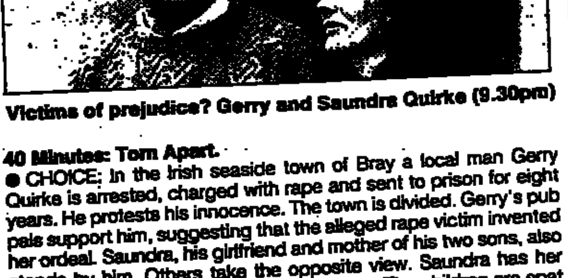
7.30 First Sight: Turning the Tide. Terry Dignan reports on the plans to regenerate the east Thames Corridor, from London to the sea. Wales: The Victorian Flower Garden; Northern Ireland: Tomorrow's World; East: Matter of Fact; Midlands: Midlands Report; North, North-east and North-west: Close Up North; South: Southern Eye; South-west: Western Approach; West: Current Account

8.00 The Victorian Flower Garden. The centrepiece of this fourth of eight programmes is the floral display for a Victorian wedding. (Ceefax) (s). Wales: Between Ourselves

8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson tests Rover's new 800 series

9.00 Murder Most Horrid.

● CHOICE: Dawn French puts on dusky make-up and affects a Latin American accent to play a Brazilian au pair employed by a well-heeled couple (Martin Jarvis and Jane Asher) in the Home Counties. There follows a sparkling black comedy billed as "a story of avarice and revenge, the ugliest coupling since Sarah Brightman and Andrew Lloyd-Webber". As in the first of the series the strength of the show lies primarily in the writing. Paul Smith and Terry Kyan combine a well-constructed plot with a plentiful supply of sharp one-liners and a shrewd appreciation of the mores of the idle rich. Although French is the nominal star the piece is far from being a star vehicle. Indeed half a dozen actresses could just as well play her part, which is a comment not on French but on the strength of the talent around her. On the evidence so far, *Murder Most Horrid* is shaping as one of the season's best new comedies



Victims of prejudice? Gerry and Saundra Quirke (9.30pm)

9.30 40 Minutes: Torn Apart.

● CHOICE: In the Irish seaside town of Bray a local man Gerry Quirke is arrested, charged with rape and sent to prison for eight years. He protests his innocence. The town is divided. Gerry's pub pals support him, suggesting that the alleged rape victim invented her ordeal. Saundra, his girlfriend and mother of his two sons, also stands by him. Others take the opposite view. Saundra has her house attacked and is abused in the street. The children are spat at. She is forced to start a new life with the boys in England. Agnieska Piotrowska's film takes its cue from the journalist who says that the Irish tend to regard women as madonnas or whores with no moral shading in between. On this analysis both the women in this story stand condemned, though by different factions. The film is part love story and part portrait of small-town prejudice, laced with a strong element of male chauvinism. (Ceefax)

10.10 Colour TV. This last in the series considers the colour black

10.30 Newsnight 11.15 The Late Show. Isabel Hilton talks to Chilean writer and dissident Ariel Dorfman (s)

11.55 Behind the Headlines. A repeat of the programme shown at 5.00

12.25am Weather

ITV

6.00 TV-am

9.25 Jeopardy! Quiz game in which the contestants have to provide the questions **9.55 Thames News** and weather

10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . John Stapleton chairs a topical discussion

10.40 This Morning. Topical family magazine.

12.10 The Riddlers. Children's puppet series (r)

12.30 News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather **1.10 Thames News** and weather

1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) **1.50 A Country Practice.** Medical drama serial set in a small Australian outback town

2.20 TV Weekly. Anne Diamond goes behind the scenes of popular ITV and C4 programmes. Plus a nostalgic look back at the soap *Crossroads* which ran for 24 years **2.50 Talkabout** Game show for the loquacious, hosted by Andrew O'Connor

3.15 ITN News headlines **3.20 Thames News** headlines **3.25 The Young Doctors.** Medical drama serial set in a large Australian city hospital

3.55 Captain Zed and the Zee Zone. Cartoon adventures **4.20 Mike and Angelo.** Comedy drama about a friendly alien living with a suburban family **4.45 Go Wild!** Children's magazine series on environmental matters, presented by Chris Packham

5.10 Thames Action. Consumer issues considered on viewers' home-made videos

5.40 News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather

5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Spreckley with news of the work of Townswomen's Guilds

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle)

6.30 Thames News. (Oracle)

7.00 Emmerdale. Drama serial set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)

7.30 Voyager — The World of National Geographic: Dead on Arrival — the Wild Parrot. Two wildlife detectives from the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency travel to Argentina and go undercover in an attempt to expose the cruel trade in wild parrots

8.00 The Bill: Chapter and Verse. A man is brought in to Sun Hill while under the influence of drink and DI Burnside (Christopher Ellison) is keen to interview him. Despite the demands of having to find two new episodes every week, this is still the freshest of the television cop shows. (Oracle)

8.30 This Week: Headbangers of the Outlawed Ring. An investigation into the unlicensed boxing circuit in which usually mismatched fighters do their best to knock each other's brains out for a few hundred pounds reward. (Oracle)

Conducting a Daley tour: George Cole, Gary Webster (9.00pm)

9.00 Minder: The Coach That Came in From the Cold. Arthur's attempts to become a member of the local golf club are interrupted by DS Morley offering him a police transport coach at a bargain price. Arthur's initial reluctance is dispelled when he has a vision of Daley's Tours for the holidaymaker. The last in the present series (Oracle)

10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Alastair Stewart. (Oracle) Weather **10.30 Thames News** and weather

10.40 The City Programme examines the second tranche of the BT sell-off

11.10 01. Chris Bonington reviews Franc Roddam's new film *K2*; and there is a report on the new play *The Cabinet Minister*, starring Maureen Lipman (s)

11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Drama serial set in an Australian women's remand centre

12.30am Contacts. Suzy Smith and Michael McNally present television's version of the newspaper personal column

1.00 The Men Who Killed Kennedy. The last of three programmes examining the assassination of President Kennedy

2.00 Film: To Each His Own Hell (1977) starring Annie Girardot, Bernard Fresson and Hardy Kruger. Skilful French drama about the traumas of a family after their ten-year-old daughter is kidnapped. Directed by André Cayatte

4.00 The Twilight Zone: The Cold Equations. A tale of the supernatural in which a woman stows away in a spacecraft

4.30 America's Top Ten (r) (s)

5.00 Videofashion. Styles from around the world (r)

5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Neilson. Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel 4 Daily

9.25 Schools

12.00 The Parliament Programme. A round-up of business from both Houses

12.30 Business Daily. News and analysis from the world's money markets

1.00 Sesame Street. Award-winning early learning series

2.00 Film: A Royal Scandal (1945, b/w) starring Tallulah Bankhead and William Eythe. Lush and enjoyable farce about the philanderings of the Russian empress Catherine the Great who draws a handsome young officer into her court intrigues. Directed by Otto Preminger and Ernst Lubitsch

3.45 The Further Adventures of the Ugly Duckling. Jannik Hastrup's animated version of what happened after the duckling went to live with the swans

4.00 A Brush With Art. The second of a 12-part learn-to-paint series presented by Alwyn Crawshaw. Today — how a figure can be created in three simple strokes and a tree in leaf in a couple of sweeps

4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart (s)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Today's guests are all brothers of stars. They include Eric Douglas, brother of Michael; Joey Travolta, brother of John; and Patrick Swayze's brother Don

5.55 Willo the Wisp. Animated adventures set in a magical wood

6.00 The Time Tunnel. Classic sci-fi series about two time-trapped scientists. In this episode they end up in 6th-century England and meet Merlin the magician

7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather

7.50 Comment

8.00 Free For All. Residents of the Blackbird Leys estate near Oxford give their account of what happened during the recent "riots" on the estate and give their version of the sensationalised accounts of joyriding

8.30 Bagdad Café. Assembly line comedy series, based on the cult film of the same name, set in a remote desert diner and starring Whoopi Goldberg and Jean Stapleton. (Teletext) (s)

Soviet skulduggery: Ukrainians paid with their lives (9.00pm)

9.00 Secret History: Unquiet Graves.

● CHOICE: Tonight's historical reassessment comes from the western Ukraine and concerns charges and counter-charges about a succession of atrocities perpetrated in that unhappy region. During the 20 years up to 1939 the area was part of Poland. The Soviet armies which invaded in 1939 were seen as liberators. This enthusiasm was misplaced. In two years 2½ million people were murdered or deported to Siberia. The dead were buried in mass graves, officially denied by Soviet propaganda. This year the Ukrainians were finally allowed the exhume the bodies. Angus MacQueen's film shows the anguished citizens of Lvov looking on as remains of massacred relatives are brought to the surface. But Stalin was not the only villain. The Nazis later carried out their atrocities, while Ukrainians themselves caught the habit during a ten-year guerrilla war against the Red Army

10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. Lively and topical comedy series set in a television newsroom, starring Robert Duncan, Haydn Gwynne and Neil Pearson (s)

10.30 Love Talk presented by Carolyn Marshall. Audrey and Mark are a couple who live happily together, but have found family opposition because she is black and he is white (s)

11.00 LA Law. A repeat run of the second series of the glossy American legal drama (r). (Teletext)

11.55 A Week in Politics presented by Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley. Includes a report on the two-day debate on the Maastricht negotiations; and how the debate was seen by members of the European parliament. Ends at **1.25am**

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except. 5.10pm-5.40 Superman 6.25-7.00 Anglia News 10.40 Anglia Tonight 11.30 Wideangle 12.00-1.00am Prisoner Cell Block H

BORDER

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Lookaround Thursday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 7th Heaven 11.10 Prisoner Cell Block H 12.05am Sing Something Scottish 12.30 Monte Carlo 2.15 America's Top Ten 2.45 Videofashion 3.15 Up the Junction 4.00-5.30 Film: The Scene of a Crime (1986) (Catherine Deneuve, Victor Lanoux)

CENTRAL

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Blockbusters 6.30-7.00 Central News 7.30-8.00 1st Night 10.40 Family Pride 11.10 Central Lobby 11.40 The Men Who Killed Kennedy 12.40am Film: Body Heat 2.45 Video View 3.15 America's Top Ten 3.45 Bhangra Beat 4.15 Raw Power 5.15-5.30 Central Jobfinder

GRANADA

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Blockbusters 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 7.30-8.00 The Granada Green Life Guide 10.40 Families 11.35 What's New 12.15am Level 42. In Profile 12.30 Monte Carlo 2.15 America's Top Ten 2.45 Videofashion 3.15 Up the Junction 4.00-5.30 Film: The Scene of a Crime (1986) (Catherine Deneuve, Victor Lanoux)

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 A Country Practice 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 The West This Week 11.10-11.40 Dirty Dancing

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six 7.30-8.00 Wales & Westminster 10.40 Kraft World Cup Tennis 11.10-11.40 Voyager — The World of National Geographic

TSW

As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 Take the High Road 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 Soap 11.10 The Equalizer 12.05am Alfred Hitchcock Presents 12.30 Monte Carlo 2.15 America's Top Ten 2.45 Videofashion 3.15 Up the Junction 4.00-5.30 Film: Scene of a Crime

TVS

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 Facing South 11.10 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.10-1.00 Jake and the Fatman

TYNE TEES

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Gardening Time 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 The Amateur Naturalist 10.40 Northern Eye 11.10-11.40 Budo Sai 12.30 Monte Carlo 2.15 America's Top Ten 2.45 Videofashion 3.15 Up the Junction 4.00-5.30 Film: The Scene of a Crime

ULSTER

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 3.25-3.55 High Days and Holidays 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.45 Counterpoint 11.15 Money Talks 11.35 Joe Dolan at the Grand Opera House 12.30am Monte Carlo 2.15 America's Top Ten 2.45 Videofashion 3.15 Up the Junction 4.00-5.30 Film: The Scene of a Crime (Catherine Deneuve, Victor Lanoux)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 Calendar Commentary 11.10 Film: Ordeal by Innocence 12.50 The Men Who Killed Kennedy 1.50 Elvis — Good Rockin' Tonight 2.15 Profile of Stock, Aitken & Waterman 2.30 America's Top Ten 3.00 CinemAttractions 3.30 Music Box 4.30-5.30 Jobfinder

S4C

Starts: 6.00am C4 Daily 9.25 Ysgolion 12.00 The Parliament Programme 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Fifteen to One 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Third Wave 2.45 Film: Miss Sadie Thompson (Rita Hayworth, Jose Ferrer, Aldo Rey) 4.25 Slot 23 5.00 Opening Speech 5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show 6.00 Newyddion 6.10 Heno 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm 7.30 Bwrw Mlaen 8.00 Graffiti 8.30 Newyddion 8.55 Fideo 9 9.30 Film: Last Holiday (Alec Guinness) 11.10 Drop the Dead Donkey 11.40 Love Talk 12.10am Bagdad Cafe 12.40 The Black Bag 1.10 Diwedd

RTE 1

Starts: 12.10pm Oireachtas Report 12.30 Look Here 1.00 News 1.30 The Secret Life of Machines 1.55 On the Rocks 2.20 The Love Boat 3.00 Live at Three 4.00 News followed by Emmerdale 4.30 Carson's Law 5.15 Masterworks 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 6.45 Garda Patrol 7.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 MacGyver 8.30 Would You Believe 9.00 News 9.30 Today Tonight 10.10 Taggart 11.05 Booklines 11.35 News 11.45 Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 2.30pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cursai 7.25 Glenroe 8.00 News followed by Marketplace 8.30 Shakin' All Over 9.00 Murphy Brown 9.30 News followed by Knots Landing 10.30 Nighthawks 11.00 News 11.20 Oireachtas Report 11.45 Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 8.55 Playabout 9.10 Cartoons 9.30 Mr Ed 10.00 Maude 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Barnaby Jones 1.30 Another World 2.15 Santa Barbara 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 The Brady Bunch 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Diff'rent Strokes 5.30 Bewitched 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 One False Move 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 Growing Pains 8.00 Full House 8.30 Murphy Brown 9.00 China Beach 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 Designing Women 11.00 St Elsewhere 12.00 Rush 1.00am Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour. 5.00am Sunrise 5.30 Newsline 6.00 Sunrise 9.30 Phone-In 10.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly 11.00 Daytime Hour 12.30pm CBS News 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Our World 3.30 Our World: The Countryside Show 4.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly 10.30 Newsline 11.30 CBS News 12.30am Newsline 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Those Were The Days 3.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly 4.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly

SKY MOVIES+

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.

6.00am Showcase, incl 8.40 Entertainment Tonight

10.00 Cocoon: The Return (1988): The senior citizens return to Earth for a holiday

12.00 Words By Heart (1985). Racial drama set at the turn of the century

2.00pm Rocky III (1982): Sylvester Stallone faces a rematch with Clubber Lang (Mr T)

4.00 The Summer My Father Grew Up: A divorced father (John Ritter) attempts a reconciliation with his estranged son

5.40 Entertainment Tonight

6.00 Catch Me If You Can (1989). A drag racer raises money to save a local high school. Starring Matt Lattanzi

8.00 Best of the Best (1989): A team of kick-boxers faces tough Korean competition

9.40 Projector

10.00 Monkey Shines (1988): Ella, a domestically-trained monkey, turns against her quadraplegic owner (Jason Beghe)

12.00 One Down, Two To Go (1983): A karate promoter attempts to expose the corruption behind the sport

1.40am The Cage (1989): A brain-damaged Vietnam veteran (Lou Ferrigno) becomes a cage fighter

4.00 Class of 1999 (1989): Schoolchildren make a stand against their violent robot teachers. Ends at 5.35

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.

6.15am How Green Was My Valley (1941, b/w): Drama about life in a Welsh coal-mining town

8.25 Johnny Guitar (1954): Cult Western

10.25 Tarantula (1955, b/w): A scientist creates a giant arachnid

12.15pm Command Decision (1948, b/w): Second world war drama starring Clark Gable and Walter Pidgeon

2.15 Lassie Come Home (1943, b/w): The faithful collie is sold by her family

4.15 Ninja, The Wonder Boy (1985): Cartoon adventure

6.15 Invitation to the Dance (1956): Three stories, told entirely in dance and mime, directed by and starring Gene Kelly

8.05 The Hunt for Red October (1989): Sean Connery stars as a maverick Soviet nuclear submarine commander

10.25 A Cry in the Dark (1988). A dramatisation of Australia's "Dingo Baby" case. Starring Meryl Streep and Sam Neill

12.30am Presumed Guilty (1990): Martin Sheen campaigns for his estranged step-son, accused of murdering a drug dealer

2.10 Seven Hours to Judgment (1988): When a street gang murders his wife, husband Ron Leibman exacts his revenge on judge Beau Bridges

3.45 White Nights (1985). Soviet ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov and American tap dancer Gregory Hines make a bid for freedom. Ends at 5.55

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

● Via the Astra satellite. 4.00pm Punky Brewster 4.30 Petticoat Junction 5.00 The New Leave It To Beaver 5.30 Green Acres 6.00 Here's Lucy 6.30 "F" Troop 7.00 McHale's Navy 7.30 The Addams Family 8.00 Dad's Army 8.30 It's Garry Shandling's Show 9.00 Hogan's Heroes 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 The Last Laugh 10.30 Barney Miller 11.00 Kids in the Hall 11.30 Laugh In

SKY SPORTS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.30am Aerobics 7.00 Netbusters 7.30 Torque 8.30 Wheels 9.00 Aerobics 9.30 Survival of the Fittest 10.30 Aerobics 11.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 12.00 FA Cup Special 2.00pm NFL American Football 4.00 NHL Ice Hockey 5.00 WWF Wrestling 6.00 European League Round-Up 7.00 Red Line 8.00 International Women's Tennis 10.00 NFL Today 11.00 Sky Soccer European League Round-Up 12.00 Women's Tennis

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite. 1.00pm Triathlon: Iron Man Hawaii 2.00 Eurolympics Albertville 2.30 Benelux Sport Magazine 3.00 Tennis 5.00 Equestrian Dressage 6.00 Motorsport News 6.30 Cycling 7.00 Trans World Sport 8.00 Lisbon Marathon 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Football European Championships 10.30 Car Racing: RAC Rally World Championship UK Preview 11.30 Eurosport News

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite. 7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Ladies Pro Bowlers 8.30 US PGA Tour 1991 9.30 Eurobics 10.00 Supercross 10.50 Johnnie Walker Golf Report 11.00 Matchroom Pro Box Live 1.00pm 24 Hours — Citroën 2CV 1.30 Revs 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 Formula One Grand Prix Films 3.00 French Rugby League 4.00 Three Day Eventing 5.00 Powersports 6.00 Argentine Football 7.00 Review of 1991 French F3 Championships 8.00 Nascar Winston Cup 9.00 Spanish Football 10.30 Japanese Golf 12.00 European Show Jumping 12.10am French Horse Racing

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite. 10.00am The Great American Gameshows 10.50 Coffee Break 10.55 Everyday Workout 11.35 Wok With Yan 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50pm Style File 12.55 Search for Tomorrow 1.20 Lifestyle Plus 2.30 Cyril Fletcher's Lifestyle Garden 2.55 Learned Friends 3.50 Tea Break 4.00 WKRP in Cincinatti 4.30 The Great American Gameshows 5.25 Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Satellite Jukebox

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather: News Headlines

7.00 Morning Concert: Telemann (Concerto in F); Schubert (Quartet Movement in C minor, D 703); Delius (Polka — Zum Carnival) **7.30** News

7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Debussy, arr Caplet (Children's Corner); Matthew Locke (Duos for two bass viols in C); Mendelssohn (Concerto No 1 in E for two pianos and orchestra)

8.30 News

8.35 Composers of the Week: Charles Ives. Orchestral Set No 2 (Royal Concertgebouw Choir and Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas); The Alcotts, Concord Sonata (the composer, piano); Thoreau, Concord Sonata (Herbert Henck, piano, Hermann Klemeyer, flute); Thoreau (Jan DeGaetani, mezzo, Gilbert Kalish, piano); Majority (Gregg Smith Singers; Ithaca College Concert Choir; American SO under Leopold Stokowski); They Are There! (the composer, voice and piano)

9.35 Youthful Genius: A sequence of works by juvenile composers. Mendelssohn — aged 13 (Concerto in D minor for violin and strings: Gidon Kremer, Orpheus CO); Bach — aged c 18 (Capriccio in B flat, BWV 992: Huguette Dreyfus, harpsichord); Mahler — aged 16 (Piano Quartet Movement in A minor: Domus); Britten — aged 15 (Tit for Tat: Benjamin Luxon, baritone, David Willison, piano); Beethoven — aged 12 (Variations in C minor on March by Dressler, WoO 63: Rudolf Buchbinder, piano); Schubert — aged 15 (Quartet in B flat, D 36: Melos Quartet); Mozart — aged 11 (Symphony No 8 in D, K 48: Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Neville Marriner)

11.30 From the City of London Festival 1991: City of London Sinfonia under Nicholas Kraemer, with Jean-Jacques Kantorow, violin, Anthea Gifford, guitar, performs Purcell (Chacony in G minor); Elgar (Serenade for Strings, Op 20); Stephen Dodgson (Duo Concerto for violin, guitar and strings — BBC commission), Bach (Violin Concerto in E, BWV 1042: under Jean-Jacques Kantorow); Tchaikovsky (Serenade for Strings, Op 48)

1.00pm News

1.05 Bristol Lunchtime Concert: Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. The pianist Bernard d'Ascoli plays Liszt (Ballade No 2 in B minor); Chopin (Nocturne in D flat, Op 27 No 2; Sonata No 3 in B minor, Op 58)

2.00 Beethoven: BBC Welsh SO; Ardwyn Singers; BBC Welsh Chorus; Cardiff Polyphonic Choir under John Eliot Gardiner perform Beethoven (Symphony No 2 in D, Op 36; Mass in C, Op 86) (r)

3.20 Derek Collier, violin, and Alan Brown, piano, perform Tartini (Sonata No 13 in B flat); John Hall (Fantasy for solo violin); Derek Collier (Valse Souvenir; Labyrinth; Polichinelle); Gade (Capriccio)

4.00 Krommer, Gounod and d'Indy: London Winds perform Krommer (Octet in E flat, Op 69); Gounod (Petite symphonie for nine wind instruments); d'Indy (Chanson et danses — divertissement for wind septet, Op 50) (r)

5.05 Mozart (Piano Concerto No 6 in B flat, K 238: ECO under Murray Perahia, piano) (r)

5.30 Mainly for Pleasure

7.00 News

7.05 Third Ear: Daniel Barenboim, the new music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, talks to Michael Hall

7.30 Till Eulenspiegel

● CHOICE: This sounds suspiciously like a "first" for BBC radio — a Soviet opera, recorded in secret. Its composer, Nikolai Karetnikov, fell foul of the censors in his country's composers' union. For more than 20 years, his work was not permitted to be played in public, but he was allowed to write film scores. At snatched intervals, and over a long period, *Till Eulenspiegel* was clandestinely recorded in a Moscow film studio. We can hear it in full tonight, sung in Russian, with Emin Khachaturian and Valeri Polyanski conducting the USSR State Cinema Orchestra

11.00 The Tatum Touch: Alun Morgan presents the second of six programmes on the American pianist Art Tatum (r)

11.30 News

11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Elgar (r)

1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on **FM**

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sport **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00 News **9.05** Punters

9.45 As Others See Us: The Ukranian broadcaster Alexei Solagumbenko celebrates British culture

10.00-10.30am Sex, Lies and Audiotape (**FM** only): Today's Date. Fourth of six comedies by Simon Booker (s) (r)

10.00 News; An Act of Worship (LW only)

10.15 The Bible (LW only): Judges. Read by Ian Hogg (2 of 7)

10.30 Woman's Hour: Jenni Murray talks to the photo-journalist Eve Arnold as she prepares for her exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours, with John Howard

12.25pm Hoax!: The return of the panel game in which chairman Tim Brooke-Taylor has to guess which panellist is telling the tallest story. In the first of nine programmes, the guests are Johnny Morris, Ray Cooney and Frank Thornton (s) **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping

2.00 News; Out There Somewhere. Gaylord Meech's thriller is set in the American mid-west. When Rosemary's (Lorelei King) estranged and violent husband threatens to kill himself on her birthday, she hires a private detective to help her track him down (s)

3.00 Down Your Way (**FM** only) (r)

3.40-4.00 Poetry Please! (**FM** only): A programme of Welsh poems at the Cardiff Literature Festival (s)

3.00 News; Prime Minister's Questions (LW only)

4.00 News

4.05 Kaleidoscope: The pianist Barry Douglas performs live; and Roger Bush reviews Lynn Chadwick's exhibition at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park (s)

4.45 Short Story: The Turf Cutters, by Emma Parsons. Read by Ali White

5.00 PM **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 The Litmus Test (s) (r)

7.00 News **7.05** The Archers

7.20 One Stop Beyond: Virtual Valerie

● CHOICE: At its simplest level, the computer graphics technology that is investigated by Chris Serle tonight allows a helmeted robotics technician to fly through 3-D walls, and to pick up a church and put it on his head. Not to incur the wrath of the anti-porn lobby, another application for what is known as Virtual Reality — simulated sex with an electronically created tart called Valerie — is not dwelt on. Neither is the military extension of VR by which the screams of war-game soldiers trapped inside a blazing tank can be heard. Serle is modestly content to fight a star-wars battle with a giant pterodactyl

8.00 Analysis: Teething the Watchdogs. Peter Hennessy asks whether it is an opportune moment to sharpen the bite of the House of Commons Select Committees

8.45 The Answer Lies in the Soil: The Lost Museum. Martin Wainwright investigates how archaeologists excavated Hull's buried treasures after the Blitz (4 of 6)

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for disabled listeners

9.30 Kaleidoscope (s) (r)

9.45 The Financial World Tonight (s) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Richard Kershaw (s)

10.45 A Book at Bedtime: What Hetty Did, by J.L. Carr. Read by Hetty Baynes (2 of 10) (r)

11.00 Killing Orders: Acid Test. Kathleen Turner stars in the third of a six-part adaptation by Michelene Wandor of Sara Paretsky's novel (s)

11.30 Today in Parliament

12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Gary King (FM only) 6.00 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Goes to Your Place: Children in Need. Phone 0898 555441 to move Gary Davies round the Monopoly board, live on the streets of London 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '91 6.00 Jakki Brambles 7.30 Mark Goodier's Evening Session 9.00 The Rap Selection 10.00 Nicky Campbell Goes into the Night 12.00-4.00am Neale James (FM only) Featuring Miracle Mile (r) and The Blessing

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Alex Lester The Early Show 6.00 Ken Bruce 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Mark Wynter 11.00 Anne Robinson 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford 4.00 Keith Skues 5.05 John Dunn, including the final chance to bid in this year's Children in Need Auction 7.00 Children in Need 24-Hour Marathon Appeal: Ken Bruce launches this year's appeal on Radio 2 with a continuous sequence of listeners' pledges, dedications and requests. Tel 071-580 4411 and 071-436 7777 8.30 David Allen 10.00 Chris Stuart 12.05am Charles Nove 2.00-4.00am Steve Madden

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until 7.00pm 6.00am World Service Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Schools 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 10.40 Angela Rippon with The Health Show 12.30pm House of Stars (r) 1.00 News Update 1.15 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (r) 1.30 BFBS Worldwide Simon and the Squad 2.30 World Service International Call 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Meridian Feature 4.05 Assignment 4.35 Five Aside 7.15 Star Smashers of the Galaxy Rangers 7.30 Talking Poetry (r) 8.00 Formula Five 8.30 Vibe! 9.30 The Cabaret of Dr Caligari: The Conversion 10.00 News; Sport 10.10 Eastern Beat, incl 11.00 Sport 12.00-12.10am News Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am World Business Report 4.40 Travel and Weather News 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.00 Morgenmagazin 5.20 Tips fur Touristen 5.24 News in German 5.30 Europe Today 5.59 Weather 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours Live: News Summary 7.30 Network UK 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Good Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report Live 9.15 From Our Own Correspondent 9.30 The Farming World 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 News Summary 10.01 Assignment 10.30 It's a Funny Old World 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Londres Midi 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 11.59 Weather 12.00 World News 12.09pm News About Britain 12.15 Multitrack 2 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 Outlook Live 2.30 Off the Shelf: The Sign of Four 2.45 Recording of the Week 3.00 World News 3.15 Music with Matthew 4.00 World News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 World News and Business Report 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 BBC English 6.29 News Summary 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 World News and Business Report 8.15 Londres Derniere 8.30 Europe Tonight 9.00 Newshour 10.00 World News 10.05 Global Concerns 10.20 Network UK 10.50 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.05 World Business Report 11.15 Music Review 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Gods and Demons 1.00 World News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Seven Seas 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Murder Most Foul 3.00 World News 3.08 News About Britain 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newsdesk

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TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

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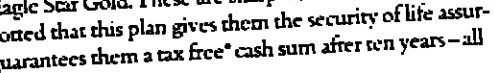

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TONY WHITE

Santa cause: comedian Ronnie Corbett was one of a batch of celebrity Santas who were "auctioned" off, along with a turkey each, at the Dorchester Hotel, London, yesterday to raise money to buy wheelchairs for disabled children. The other Father Christmases included Faith Brown, Rod Hull and Emu, Henry Cooper and weatherman Michael Fish

Orkney wins costs battle

By Kerry Gill

THE future participation of the Orkney Islands' council in the judicial enquiry into how nine children were seized by social workers and police after allegations of sexual abuse seemed assured last night after the government agreed to meet all reasonable costs.

The council had threatened to withdraw because of weekly costs of about £36,000 and a possible total of £2 million by the end of the enquiry, expected next summer. The Scottish Office has already committed itself to costs of about £100,000 a week.

The council's ultimatum on Monday led to a meeting in London last night between Michael Forsyth, Scottish minister of state, and a delegation headed by Jackie Tait, the council convener. Mr Forsyth said later: "I am conscious of the burdens which the enquiry places on a small authority such as Orkney council. As a result of our meeting I have agreed to contribute to their costs at the enquiry, in the same way as the department of health contributed to the costs of Cleveland social services department."

This, he said, was a substantial contribution made once all the costs had been assessed. He said that details would be worked out with the council. It was also agreed that the council would fund the costs of Paul Lee, the islands' social work director.

Mr Lee's legal team pulled out of the enquiry last week after the British Association of Social Work said the financial burden was too great. Mr Tait said the offer would be considered by the council, adding that it seemed to be "fair and reasonable".

The offer represented a change of heart by the Scottish Office, which had previously refused to take over the costs of the council and Mr Lee. If no agreement had been made, the future credibility of the enquiry, held by Lord Clyde, would have been brought into doubt. Strathclyde region, which lent six social workers to Orkney social work department for the operation, might also have pulled out.

Mr Forsyth emphasised that the enquiry's overall costs, put at up to £12 million, would be closely watched. "We will be taking steps to contain the costs to which the government is contributing," he said. He added that the Scottish Office was anxious that the enquiry should be completed without undue delay.

The Scottish Office is already meeting costs including the salaries of Lord Clyde, his assessors and their staff; counsel to the enquiry; legal representation for the four families involved; the Rev Morris McKenzie, the local minister; and Susan Millar, the senior social worker.

THE BEST IN THE WORLD?

Which is the finest car in the world? The title is being sought by Rolls-Royce and Mercedes-Benz, rival companies that have launched contenders simultaneously. The Bentley Continental R, Rolls-Royce's first all-new car for a decade, has the inimitable British virtues of wood and leather and is regarded, like any Rolls model, as an investment as well as a means of transport. The German company's Mercedes S-Class, meanwhile, is a temple of *high technology and gives a ride as smooth as silk*

Tomorrow **Kevin Eason**, the *Times* motoring correspondent, compares two vastly different cars

Renewed attack on Osijek

Continued from page 1

town of breaking into homes, stealing goods, and the last few scraps of food. "It was too *awful, don't ask me to speak* about the siege. It was three months in hell: hardly any food or water, fear and constant shelling," she said.

Croatian television yesterday showed refugees from Vukovar making their way to Zagreb. A family group stood dejectedly by a coach at the *roadside. The children* cried while their father scowled. His wife said: "What will become of us? No home, no job, no one to put us up. What have we done to deserve this?"

A European Community proposal for a United Nations oil embargo on Yugoslavia ran into a serious difficulty in New York yesterday when non-aligned nations in the security council threatened to block it. If they vote together, the seven nations can effectively block any measure proposed in the 15-nation council, where a nine vote majority is needed. China, which as a permanent member has a veto, also opposes the embargo.

Test for Europe, page 10

BR pays widow £1m record damages

By Ray Clancy

BRITISH Rail yesterday agreed in the High Court to pay substantial damages, believed to be more than £1 million, to the widow and three sons of an executive banker who died in the Clapham rail crash.

The award, the highest made over the crash, in which 35 people died and more than 400 were injured, is also thought to be a record amount for accident damages. The previous highest was £920,000, awarded in January to Helene Houghton, whose husband Gregory, an orthopaedic doctor, died after being knocked off his bicycle by a car.

The full amount awarded to Heather Wren, whose husband Alan, aged 55, was an executive director with the Standard Chartered Bank in London, earning in excess of £100,000 a year, was not revealed in court. Mr Justice Mantell said the sum was "appropriate in the circumstances" and agreed to a request from Mrs Wren and BR not to make the amount public.

Mrs Wren, of Ferndown, Dorset, shares the award with her sons Malcolm and Timothy, both aged 22, and Simon, aged 17. Mr Wren had been at the pinnacle of his banking career when he died, the court heard. He had worked for Standard Chartered for 33 years and risen through the ranks to become an executive director responsible for commercial banking in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

He had travelled all over the world and worked in Aden, Zimbabwe and Iran. He lived in a flat in London during the week

To date BR has paid out over £7 million in damages to victims of the 1988 crash and their families, and 412 of the 494 claims have been settled, including 24 of the 35 fatal claims. The previous highest individual award was £339,000, made in January to Karen Hadfield, who lost her husband Paul in the crash.

William Gage, QC, for BR, said all those who lost relatives had been visited by a BR representative to express sympathy. Liability for the crash had been promptly admitted by BR, Hugh Bennett, QC, for the Wren family, told the judge.

Political sketch

Camp followers are given a treat

SHE arrived in black. Her face, rather pale, was framed by a huge white Quaker collar. Her hair, a great frozen blonde mousse, was piled so high that engineers trembled. She wore pearls round her neck, and on her lapel a raft of diamonds. All eyes were drawn to her. She stood at the bar of the House, waiting.

The others were already there. Mr Major, in dark suit, was in his place and quietly studying his notes. Blue-suited Mr Heath was sunk in ferocious contemplation. Nigel Lawson, in black, slumped gloomily in his seat. His black hair foams round his head like the cavalier wig of a talcumed 18th-century dandy. She used to make him cut it.

What was each thinking? A sort of excited shudder ran across the benches as Mrs Thatcher moved to her place with the small, energetic footsteps of a nervous partridge. Harry Greenway was waiting on the carpet, a would-be poodle, by her usual seat. He had hoped to crouch at her side, but a bigger dog, Gerald Howarth of the No Turning Back Group, shooed him away and crouched there instead.

Opposite them Neil Kinnock studiously shuffled his notes. Roy Hattersley, chin on chest, hugged himself — one of the few big enough for that job — and scowled. The prime minister was heard in unusual silence. It was a good, foreign office speech, setting out the position in plain but polished prose. But it went mostly to the brain, hardly to the heart, never to the jugular. "My right hon friend secured a more equitable budgetary arrangment ..." Such speeches do not lose parliamentary battles but seldom win them either; though Major parried well with his interruptors, neither wit nor prepared text was adequate to answer Jim Sillars.

The SNP MP for Glasgow (Govan) made what may prove the interruption of the year. He asked how Britain could *practically* — as opposed to theoretically — stay outside a single currency if our partners later decide to join one. He implied that the kernel of Major's case — that a crunch may come, but not at Maastricht — was a hollow promise. The prime minister never answered that.

To Tony Benn he did give an answer. Benn had asked whether "the British people are not entitled to give their verdict". Mrs Thatcher looked up, interestedly. Mr Major said that he did not believe in referenda. Mrs Thatcher looked down. Ted Heath blinked.

Mr Major reached the end of his text. It had not gone badly. If those who found a diet of Ecofin and hardened Ecu meagre sustenance for the human soul — and if those who had hoped at his peroration for a more stirring visible symbol of the new European dawn than "Europol," a new police force — were a little disappointed, well, at least we were sending to Maastrich a man who knew what he was talking about.

Mr Kinnock rose and made an awful speech, perhaps best summed up by a very short quote: "the question is ... er."

Nor was he wise to begin by remarking that the Tories "are not clear about their objectives". A great hoot of "nor are you, ho, ho!" was started by the SNP and soon spread. Things were going from bad to worse when Mr Kinnock was seemingly rescued by the Tories' Robert Adley, who asked him whether there was anything on which he hadn't changed his mind.

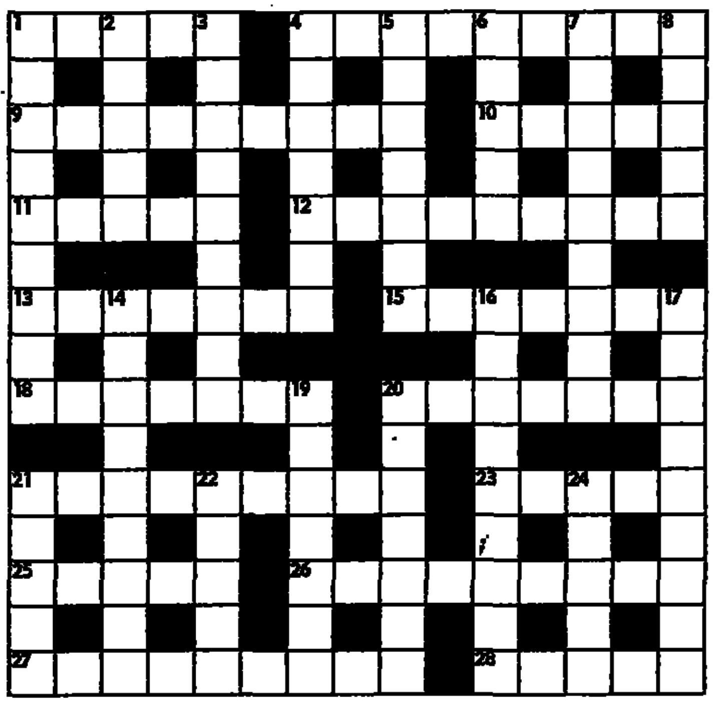
Yes, said Kinnock. He and Adley had joined the House together. "I formed the view then that he was a jerk and I've never changed my mind." There were roars of laughter, interrupted by Mr Speaker agonising about whether "jerk" was a parliamentary expression. It rescued the moment for the Labour leader, and yet ... was it *up* to the moment? And when he was unwise enough to shout (at the Tories) "*I* don't have to try and patch my party together" the grin on John Smith's face was that of a sphinx who has just closed its teeth on a lemon.

When Mrs Thatcher rose, after Mr Kinnock, several Labour MPs actually came *in*. Frankly, she camped it up something awful. "In my day, that would have called for the occasional use of the *handbag*" ... "Not yet" (at one interrupter) "sit *down*". "The conveyor belt to federalism". "Let the people speak!". But it worked. "I wish him well," concluded the elderly delinquent.

Mr Major wondered to himself what sort of a speech she would have made if she hadn't.

Matthew Parris

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,769



ACROSS

1 Concert includes a competition for different players (3-2).
4 Northerner's scheme set out in European articles (9).
9 Repelling attack (9).
10 Get through course in a minor field of study (5).
11 This is wrong, though only two letters aren't right (5).
12 Ale runs out about four in local? Just the opposite (9).
13 Led off with a couple of points in criminal deception (7).
15 Decoration new in Brummagem (7).
18 Fashion once again others see returning (7).
20 River runs inside farm buildings (7).
21 Proper sign for some schools (9).
23 Sort of wing — Daedalus needed two (5).
25 Luggage drivers try to avoid (5).
26 Previously cited article favouring unorthodox ideas (9).
27 Stop installing a line for current (9).
28 Early dramatist's written on society in artful way (5).

DOWN

1 Part of computer for manipulation of scores (9).
2 Volunteer no longer available to serve king (5).
3 Defoe's character following one of Chesterton's? (3,6).
4 Free time amounts to half an hour, in general (7).
5 English in foreign capital briefly sight-seeing (7).
6 Walk a mile, with bishop, for one (5).
7 Falling trend that leads to strike (9).
8 Boys in blue, sort of (5).
14 Bring about one thousand pounds to put in office outside (9).
16 Study set in order to prepare for another post (9).
17 *Man at the top of transport* undertaking managing with economy (9).
19 State of the Middle East makes me upset and cross (7).
20 Two games in naval base (7).
21 House built (3,2).
22 Having dealt with AB, say, during a voyage (2,3).
24 Like some soil? See 4th of March issue (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,768

B	I	S	C	U	I	T		S	A	P	L	I	N	G
U		P		N		R		I		U		X		O
S	T	I	L	L		A	R	G	E	N	T	I	N	A
K		K		I		C		H		C		O		H
I	D	E	N	T	I	K	I	T		H	I	N	G	E
N		N				S				B				A
G	R	A	S	P		U	N	S	C	A	T	H	E	D
		R		U		I		H		L		Y		
M	O	D	E	R	A	T	O	R		L	A	D	E	N
U				C				U				R		O
T	H	I	G	H		P	U	B	L	I	C	A	N	S
A		L		A		R		B		N		N		T
B	R	I	M	S	T	O	N	E		T	I	G	E	R
L		A		E		X		R		E		E		U
E	L	D	E	R	L	Y		Y	A	R	D	A	R	M

Concise crossword, page 21

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

WINTLE
a. To stagger
b. A Pope's nepotistic nephew
c. A student vomiting game

VETIVER
a. Cuscus roots
b. Cigarette butt in a beer bottle
c. Coloured streamers on a fan

SURMULLET
a. A changeable red mullet
b. Curdled Hollandaise sauce
c. A floating goldfish corpse

ENCOIGNURE
a. A diopedic tetrameter
b. A bouffant hair style
c. Furniture fitting into a corner

Answers on page 22

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WEATHER

Mild everywhere, especially in the north. Northern England and much of Wales will start cloudy before heavy rain and strong winds spread south during the morning. Gales in places. Northern Ireland and Scotland may brighten up a little in the afternoon. Southern Britain will have a bright start after mist and fog patches clear. Some frost at first. Dull later with patchy rain by evening. Outlook: Cloudy with rain in the north and west. Mild but breezy.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	f	Malaga	14	57	s
Akrotiri	22	72	s	Malta	22	72	s
Alex'dria	3	37	f	Melb'me	14	57	f
Algiers	13	55	r	Mexico C*	19	66	s
Amst'dm	4	39	f	Miami*	27	81	f
Athens	18	64	s	Milan	8	46	c
Bahrain	25	77	s	Montreal*	12	54	f
Barbads*	30	86	f	Moscow	1	34	d
Barcelna	12	54	s	Munich	2	36	r
Beirut	23	73	s	Nairobi	23	73	f
Belgrade	14	57	f	Naples	19	66	s
Bermuda*	21	70	s	N Delhi	23	73	s
Biarritz	10	50	c	N York*	17	63	s
Bordx	7	45	c	Nice	13	55	f
Brussels	3	37	d	Oslo	-4	25	s
Budapst	8	46	c	Paris	3	37	c
B Aires*	21	70	s	Peking	9	48	s
Cairo	24	75	f	Perth	24	75	s
Cape Tn	18	64	f	Prague	2	36	d
Chicago*	19	66	f	Reykjavik	5	41	r
Cologne	3	37	r	Rhodes	18	64	s
C'phagn	-2	28	c	Rio de J	29	84	s
Corfu	17	63	f	Riyadh	27	81	s
Dublin	4	39	f	Rome	18	64	c
Faro	16	61	s	Salzburg	2	36	r
Florence	12	54	r	S F'risco*	14	57	s
Frankfurt	6	43	r	Santiago*	29	84	s
Funchal	19	66	f	S Paulo*	27	81	s
Geneva	7	45	r	Seoul	8	46	s
Gibraltar	13	55	s	St'kholm	-2	28	s
Helsinki	-3	27	c	Strasb'rg	8	46	c
Hong K	20	68	c	Sydney	18	64	f
Innsbrck	3	37	r	Tangier	14	57	c
Istanbul	14	57	s	Tel Aviv	23	73	f
Jo'burg*	25	77	s	Tenerife	20	68	d
Karachi	31	88	s	Tokyo	17	63	s
L Palmas	20	68	c	Toronto*	13	55	r
Le Tquet	7	45	f	Tunis	19	66	f
Lisbon	13	55	s	Valencia	16	61	s
Locarno	6	43	r	Vanc'ver*	10	50	r
London	7	45	c	Venice	11	52	r
L Angels*	20	68	s	Vienna	5	41	r
Luxembg	3	37	c	Warsaw	5	41	r
Luxor	28	82	s	Wash'ton*	16	61	c
Madrid	10	50	f	Wel'nton	17	63	f
Majorca	12	54	c	Zurich	6	43	c

* denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.315	2.165
Austria Sch	21.20	19.70
Belgium Fr	62.00	58.00
Canada $	2.15	1.99
Denmark Kr	11.68	10.93
Finland Mkk	8.33	7.73
France Fr	10.28	9.58
Germany Dm	3.005	2.805
Greece Dr	348.00	323.00
Hong Kong $	14.50	13.50
Ireland Pt	1.124	1.054
Italy Lira	2275.00	2125.00
Japan Yen	250.00	231.00
Netherlands Gld	3.385	3.165
Norway Kr	11.86	11.08
Portugal Esc	261.00	243.00
South Africa Rd	5.15	4.55
Spain Pta	189.00	176.00
Sweden Kr	11.08	10.28
Switzerland Fr	2.655	2.465
Turkey Lira	9100.00	8300.00
USA $	1.89	1.76
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNB	40.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 4C (39F); *min 6 pm to 6 am, -6C (21F). Rain: 24hr to 6* pm, nil. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 4.7 hr.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.0	0.08	7	45	sunny
Aviemore	0.2	0.09	4	39	shower
Belfast	5.8	0.06	8	46	sunny
Birmingham	0.2	0.45	7	45	rain
Bournemouth	-	0.31	8	46	rain
Bristol	-	0.36	8	46	rain
Buxton	-	0.31	5	41	cloudy
Cardiff	0.1	0.04	9	48	cloudy
Colwyn Bay	1.4	0.07	8	46	cloudy
Douglas	4.8	0.01	7	45	sunny
Edinburgh	3.6	0.12	7	45	shower
Glasgow	6.5	0.06	7	45	sunny
Guernsey	-	0.22	10	50	gale
Hunstanton	-	0.61	7	45	dull
Jersey	0.4	0.37	9	48	cloudy
Kinloss	0.7	0.13	7	45	shower
Leeds	2.1	0.14	7	45	shower
Lerwick	4.9	0.05	6	43	sunny
Littlehampton	-	0.41	8	46	rain
London	-	0.91	8	46	thundr
Lowestoft	-	0.41	8	46	rain
Manchester	2.0	0.11	8	46	shower
Minehead	-	0.19	9	48	cloudy
Morecambe	4.5	-	7	45	bright
Newcastle	3.6	0.51	8	46	shower
Newquay	0.2	0.13	10	50	cloudy
Nottingham	1.3	0.27	8	46	rain
Penzance	-	0.48	10	50	dull
Plymouth	0.1	0.08	9	48	cloudy
Prestwick	6.6	0.03	7	45	sunny
Saunton Snd	0.2	0.24	11	52	dull
Scarborough	-	0.25	9	48	shower
Scilly Isles	1.0	0.08	10	50	gale
Shanklin	0.1	0.15	7	45	rain
Southsea	-	0.20	8	46	rain
St. Ives	-	0.09	10	50	dull
Stornoway	2.2	0.02	9	48	bright
Swanage	-	0.25	8	46	rain
Teignmouth	-	0.08	9	48	shower
Tenby	4.6	0.03	10	50	bright
Tiree	6.6	0.02	7	45	sunny
Torquay	-	0.06	10	50	cloudy
Wick	1.1	0.02	6	43	bright

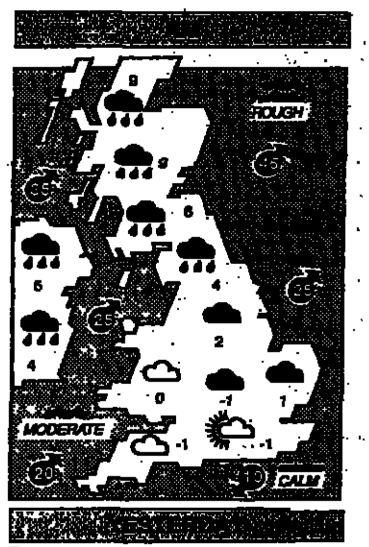
These are Tuesday's figures

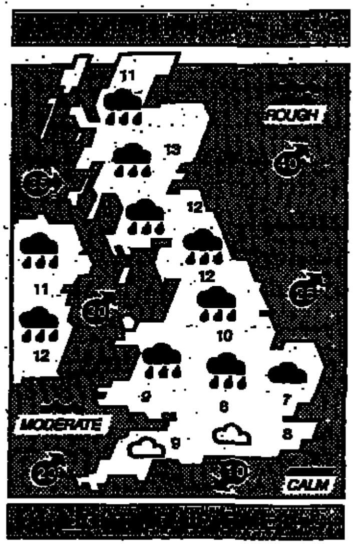
TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute *(cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all* other times.





Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	5	41	s	Guernsey	7	45	f
B'rmgham	6	43	s	Inverness	4	39	s
Blackpool	6	43	s	Jersey	8	46	s
Bristol	7	45	s	London	7	45	c
Cardiff	8	46	s	M'nchster	5	41	s
Edinburgh	2	36	f	Newcastle	4	39	c
Glasgow	2	36	f	R'nldsway	7	45	s

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, north Devon, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: South Farnborough, Hampshire, 1.42 in; highest sunshine: Prestwick, Ayrshire, and Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 6.6 hr.

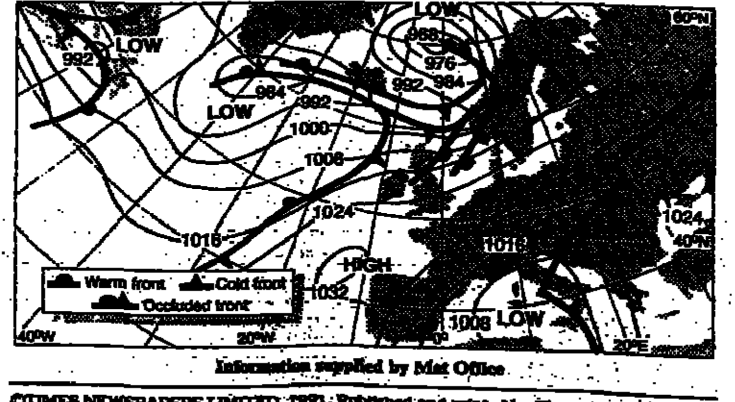
London 4.05 pm to 7.30 am
Bristol 4.14 pm to 7.39 am
Edinburgh 3.57 pm to 8.02 am
Manchester 4.04 pm to 7.48 am
Penzance 4.31 pm to 7.46 am

Sun rises: 7.28 am
Sun sets: 4.05 pm
Moon sets 7.09 am
Moon rises 3.21 pm
Full moon 10.56 pm

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 0C (32F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.7 hr.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.42	6.8	12.55	6.9	Liverpool	10.14	9.2	10.34	9.4
Aberdeen			12.32	4.2	Lowestoft	8.16	2.5	8.54	2.4
Avonmouth	6.11	12.6	6.35	13.1	Margate	10.52	4.7	11.29	4.8
Belfast	9.59	3.4	10.16	3.4	Milford Haven	5.12	6.8	5.34	6.9
Cardiff	5.56	11.9	6.20	12.1	Newquay	4.04	6.8	4.25	6.9
Devonport	5.02	5.4	5.24	5.4	Oban	4.43	3.9	5.09	4.1
Dover	9.52	6.6	10.16	6.5	Penzance	4.01	5.5	4.21	5.5
Falmouth	4.32	5.2	4.54	5.2	Portland	6.01	2.2	6.26	2.2
Glasgow			12.05	4.8	Portsmouth	10.20	4.7	10.46	4.6
Harwich	10.52	4.0	11.23	4.0	Shoreham	10.05	6.1	10.30	6.1
Holyhead	9.19	5.5	9.36	5.6	Southampton	10.00	4.5	10.21	4.4
Hull	5.12	7.2	5.40	7.2	Swansea	5.13	9.4	5.37	9.5
Ilfracombe	4.54	8.9	5.18	9.1	Tees	2.21	5.3	2.57	5.3
King's Lynn	5.19	6.4	5.49	6.5	W'ton-on-Nze	10.47	4.2	11.16	4.2
Leith	1.17	5.4	1.50	5.4					

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.



Information supplied by Met Office

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THE TIMES
BUSINESS
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

TODAY IN BUSINESS

SID AGHAST

Sid, the mythical British Gas shareholder, is aghast with the government's handling of the company. Robert Evans, chairman, reports results today
Page 29

LOOKING GOOD

Courtaulds, which cast off its textiles interests last year, added to its recent strength with a rise in half-year pre-tax profits from £87.1 million to £96.4 million. Prospects are looking good
Tempus, page 28

MORE BOTTLE

Chris Haskins, of Northern Foods, took on Britain's biggest milkround when he bought Express Dairy and Eden Vale from Grand Metropolitan
Page 27

SLOWER RISE

Heavy competition in the bread market limited Ranks Hovis McDougall to a 14.6 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits to £150 million for the year to end-August. Annual dividend rises from 12.74p to 13.36p.
Tempus, page 28

RED WITH ENVY

Jozsef Antall, prime minister of Hungary, has delivered political and economic stability that are the envy of other post-communist governments
Pages 34-35

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7950 (–0.0017)
German mark
2.8774 (+0.0036)
Exchange index
91.2 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1898.2 (+10.4)
FT-SE 100
2472.6 (+9.5)
New York Dow Jones
2946.78 (+15.21)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
23199.86 (–127.00)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10½%
3-month interbank 10$\frac{9}{16}$-10½%
3-month eligible bills: 10$\frac{5}{32}$-10$\frac{3}{32}$%
US: Prime Rate 7½%
Federal Funds 4⅝%*
3-month Treasury Bills 4.51-4.50%*
30-year bonds 100$\frac{23}{32}$-100¾*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.7955	£: $1.7960*
£: DM2.8764	$: DM1.6028*
£: SwFr2.5491	$: SwFr1.4222*
£: FFr9.8187	$: FFr5.4760*
£: Yen232.97	$: Yen129.76*
£: Index:91.2	$: Index:62.9
ECU £0.709821	SDR £0.775754
£: ECU1.408805	£: SDR1.289068

London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $362.55 pm-$362.60
close $362.30-362.80 (£201.70-202.20)
New York:
Comex $363.35-363.85*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) .... $20.70 bbl ($20.95)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.1 October (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

MGN shares soar on Packer speculation

Bankers forced to meet over Maxwell family

By Angela Mackay and Neil Bennett

THE Maxwell family's fragile personal finances appeared close to collapse yesterday, forcing its bankers to arrange a meeting of some 25 banks early next week to help fend off the threat of receivership.

The meeting, which will be led by National Westminster Bank, was deemed necessary after Swiss Bank Corporation said it wanted repayment of a £55 million loan to Headington Investments, a pivotal family company.

Shares in Mirror Group Newspapers, in which the family owns a 51 per cent holding, soared to a post-float high of 128p as speculation circulated that Kerry Packer, the Australian media owner, was interested in buying a majority stake in the company. MGN shares ended up 12p at 126p compared with the flotation price of 125p.

Mr Packer, who has cash resources of more than Aus$1 billion (£439 million), is interested in buying more media assets both in Australia and overseas. He and Conrad Black, proprietor of *The Daily Telegraph*, have bid jointly for the Fairfax newspaper group in Australia. That deal, however, was referred last week to domestic regulators.

A spokesman for Swiss Bank said that it had not set a deadline for repayment but it wanted the situation to be resolved in the next few weeks. "It would be quite wrong to start issuing ultimatums, but we cannot let the situation run on indefinitely," he said.

The spectre of receivership depressed the value of Maxwell Communication Corporation's shares, forcing them to a low of 31½p before closing at 36p, down 10p. MCC is vulnerable to swings in the family's fortunes as more than half of its 68 per cent stake has been pledged as collateral for family debt and as the value of those shares plummet, so does the value of the collateral.

Kevin Maxwell, the chairman of MCC and also of Headington, met with his family's lawyers and bankers last night to try to devise a plan that would sooth the market and satisfy jittery bankers. A statement was expected last night.

The family has been under immense personal and financial pressure since the death this month of Robert Maxwell, the group's founder and former chairman. Exacerbating problems was the announcement this week by the Serious Fraud Office that it had begun an investigation in to the Swiss Bank loan to Adviser (188), a wholly owned subsidiary of Headington.

Swiss Bank, which is also owed $100 million by MCC, is continuing to talk to Headington and other banks about possible solutions. "We will not act precipitately," the spokesman said.

Swiss Bank demanded repayment of the loan two weeks ago, when Headington's advisers told the bank that it could not deliver the shares from the First Tokyo Index Trust, which were intended to act as security. This placed the loan into immediate default.

Other banks said that Swiss Bank's action was justified considering Headington's failure to meet the agreement. "We will try to smooth their ruffled feathers or come to some other arrangement," one bank said. As a last-ditch alternative, Headington's other banks could agree to provide an unsecured loan to it to repay Swiss Bank and save the company from administration or receivership.

Packer: wants more assets

The Maxwell family's bankers are hopeful that if this conflict can be resolved, they can still keep the private companies afloat. Unlike other large businesses, which have been hit by debt problems, the Maxwell companies have less than 25 banks.

Bankers are confident that they can stabilise the Maxwell family's private companies if they can overcome this latest emergency. Most of the banks used by the Maxwell family have expressed support for the various companies. Many banks are owed more than £100 million and want to see all the public and private companies remain going concerns to give them a better chance of recovering their loans.

All four of Britain's high street banks have a substantial exposure to the Maxwell family's interests. NatWest has perhaps the greatest and is likely to act as the lead bank in any negotiations about reorganising the debt.

Barclays is owed almost £200 million. More than two-thirds is secured and most is due from Mirror Group Newspapers, the most stable part of the empire.

Midland is a main creditor, while Samuel Montagu, its merchant banking subsidiary, is advising the Maxwell family on its business interests.

Lloyds is the lead banker on a £170 million loan to Headington, which until this week was secured on a 30.3 per cent stake in MCC. The collapse in the MCC share price has prompted Lloyds to begin talks about finding alternative security for the loan.

Until the dispute with Headington, Swiss Bank had one of the closest relationships with the Maxwell family. Two years ago it helped to arrange a $3 billion syndicated loan to MCC for the acquisition of Macmillan and the Official Airlines Guide in America. The bank is still owed $100 million on the loan.

TIM BISHOP

Flat sales: Sam Whitbread reporting a profit fall of £10.3 million yesterday

Bad debts dent Whitbread

By Martin Waller

THE big banks are forcing hundreds of public houses up and down the land out of business because of the fall in property prices, according to Whitbread, the brewing and retailing group facing rising bad debts as a result.

Pre-tax profits for the half-year to end-August of £142.5 million, down £10.3 million on last time, contain a £6 million provision to cover bad debts to the free trade. Last year, the total bad debt provision was £8 million, and Peter Jarvis, the Whitbread chief executive, said the full-year figure this time would probably be higher.

Whitbread is raising its interim dividend from 4.30p to 4.55p despite the first profits fall in 16 years. Sam Whitbread, the chairman, said: "In the circumstances I believe these results are satisfactory, even creditable."

Mr Jarvis said the company began the financial year with relief that the Gulf war and the bad winter, both of which hit trade, were over, but that relief soon evaporated. The group was hurt by the bad spring weather, a rise in duty in the Budget and the recession, which combined to send the British beer market down 7 per cent in the half year.

The outlook for bad debts had worsened significantly in recent weeks, to the extent that Whitbread had felt it right to warn shareholders. It lent substantial amounts to free trade public houses in the Eighties, when property values were high, as did the banks. Whitbread now has £300 million of loans outstanding to the free trade.

The banks secured their lending against property values, which have slumped in the public house market as elsewhere. As publicans who had overstretched themselves fell behind with interest, the banks pulled the plug.

The loans from the brewers were linked to agreements to take their beer and ranked behind the banks in terms of their call on the assets. Whitbread estimates hundreds of free houses it supplies and has lent money to have gone bankrupt recently as the banks' attitude toughened.

☐ Brent Walker has confirmed that it is to "acquire an interest" in 750 public houses currently owned by Allied-Lyons, the drinks group. In return, Allied has agreed to buy 50 managed houses from Brent Walker.

Tempus, page 28
Comment, page 29

Three go in Bupa shake-up after losses

By Lindsay Cook
Money Editor

THREE key executives have left Bupa in a management shake-up after losses of £63 million incurred by the health insurance division last year.

Mike Smith, managing director of the health insurance division, Peter Reeves, the division's finance director, and Frank Levene, director of community business, left last week. Bupa, the largest provider of private health insurance, would not say if they received payoffs, saying this was a private matter.

Peter Jacobs, Bupa's chief executive since May, is taking charge of the division for a limited period. He will be assisted by Philip Anderson and Peter Garrad-Cole. Mr Jacobs said: "To succeed in achieving our objective of making the health insurance division more efficient, competitive and customer-orientated, it is necessary to reorganise the structure."

Mr Jacobs added that the changes did not affect Bupa's health services division or the operations of its hospitals. He said Bupa was a sound organisation with reserves of about £300 million.

Bupa, along with other health insurance companies, has been hurt by the recession. A sharp increase in claims coupled with a rapid rise in medical costs caused Bupa's health insurance division to lose £63 million last year. Bupa had to transfer more than £42 million from its reserves after profits on its health services and private hospitals were taken into account. This was the first time since 1981 that the organisation had called on its reserves.

Bupa said: "The very big increase in claims was in part due to the recession. Some people in company schemes had made claims in anticipation of redundancy so that they can use up their benefit."

Lord Wigoder, Bupa's chairman, said in the annual report that at the beginning of last year corporate sector subscriptions "proved to have been set at too low a level".

Bupa has about 50 per cent of the private health market.

Weak figures reflect reluctance to spend

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

PERSISTENT weakness shown in official money figures for October suggest that companies and consumers remained sceptical about the economic outlook and preferred to repay debts rather than take on more.

The credit element was much weaker than expected. Coming the day after disappointing economic growth figures for the third quarter, the Bank of England data reinforced City fears that a technical recovery would be difficult to sustain without an increase in borrowing to match the reported improvement in confidence.

Despite renewed assurance from Treasury officials that the government would do "whatever was necessary" to defend it, the pound remained at the bottom of the exchange-rate mechanism. No sign of Bank of England support was detected. At 5pm, sterling had slipped to DM2.8764 from Tuesday's DM2.8778 close, having hovered just above DM2.87 at its weakest.

While broad money growth, as indicated by the Bank's M4 measure, slowed from an annual 6.5 per cent in September to 6.3 per cent in October, M4 lending produced a rise of only £1 billion in October, against the £2.9 billion forecast. In September, it rose by £800 million.

In the latest three months, the annualised rise in M4 lending was 2.8 per cent, its slowest since the third quarter of 1975.

M0, the narrow money measure, grew 0.2 per cent in October for annual growth of 2.6 per cent, up from 2.3 per cent in September. The Treasury stuck to its forecast of 0.75 per cent growth in the second half of this year. Alan Budd, chief economist at the Treasury, told a parliamentary select committee that this growth forecast would be confirmed when all data were available.

British Bankers' Association figures showed a small rise in lending in October. Lending for house buying was up £408 million, but there was a £259 million repayment on lending "for consumption", including a £56 million repayment of credit-card debt.

Orders received by the construction industry fell 6 per cent in the third quarter to stand 9 per cent below last year's third quarter.

Comment, page 29

Discount on BT likely to be 15p

By Our City Staff

FRANCIS Maude, the financial secretary, is today expected to announce that retail buyers of British Telecom in the forthcoming sale of part of the government's holding will pay 15p a share less than the financial institutions.

Today is so-called discount day in the BT sale, when the government will indicate the price of the first instalment. First indications were of a discount in a 10p to 20p range off what institutions eventually pay, with the government opting on a middle course.

Mr Maude is expected to reveal a price of 125p for the first instalment to the institutions. The result of their tender offer will determine the value of the third instalment in March 1993. The first instalment price to the public, therefore, should be 110p.

Post Office welcomes competition paper

Europe delivers postal sort-out

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

THE European Community is likely to maintain member states' core postal monopolies, but will open up other areas to increased competition in a radical revision of the laws governing postal services across Europe.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Post Office, said yesterday that the EC's long-awaited green paper on postal services was now expected at the end of the month, and would mark a significant victory for those, like the PO, keen to see greater competition in postal services.

The green paper, which is likely to be considered by telecommunications ministers meeting on December 5, is expected to define a common set of standards on price, weight, speed of delivery and services to customers. It is expected to include provision on:

☐ Monopoly. EC countries should keep their core, or reserve, monopolies, with the exact definition of a maximum monopoly based probably on a combination of price, as in Britain, and weight, as in France, determined by a working group within 12 months.

☐ Subsidy. Subsidies should be phased out, with non-competitive services no longer supported by the reserve monopoly.

☐ Competition. Non-reserve areas should be subject to competition, especially in value-added services — for example, recorded delivery.

☐ Parcels. Member states could be required to provide parcel services. Britain does so for commercial reasons, rather than as a requirement.

☐ Counters. Postal services could be required to take in at counters parcels being carried by a competitor, such as Federal Express, TNT or Securicor.

☐ Measurement. International services could have to measure their service quality from the start to the end of service provision.

The Post Office reckons businesses should benefit from improved prices. It also believes that it already either meets or surpasses the standards likely to be laid down by Brussels. It released figures yesterday showing that on service, Britain delivers 86 per cent of mail by the following working day, compared with 74 per cent for The Netherlands, 68 per cent for Germany and 65 per cent for France, while on price, the 24p cost of a 20gm letter in Britain compares with 42p in Denmark, 37p in Italy, 35p in Germany and 25p in France.

EC holds the key, page 29

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X744

Willis bid to sell Sovereign misfires

By Neil Bennett

WILLIS Corroon, the insurance group, has failed in an attempt to sell Sovereign, its underwriting subsidiary. It warned shareholders that winding the business up would lead to an extraordinary loss of as much as £50 million.

The group, which was formed last year by the merger of Willis Faber in Britain and Corroon & Black in America, also revealed that its proforma profits for the nine months to September 30 fell by 8 per cent to £89 million, owing to the continuing slide in American premium rates. City analysts estimate that Corroon & Black's profits slumped 40 per cent in the third quarter.

Despite this, the group is paying a fourth interim dividend of 3.3p a share, compared with nothing a year ago.

Zürich Re, the Swiss reinsurance company, has bought Sovereign's on-going marine and aviation underwriting, but Willis is left with the existing book of marine, non-marine and aviation policies. The business could take up to 30 years to wind down.

Sovereign lost a further £3.8 million in the third quarter, after a £10.8 million loss in the first half. Willis's full-year figures will include an extraordinary provision that commentators reckon could be anything between £20 million and £50 million.

Insurance analysts are questioning the wisdom of last year's merger. "If Corroon's margins continue to be eroded, it will soon not be making a contribution at all," one said.

The original Willis Faber businesses are performing well as a result of premium increases on catastrophe reinsurance at Lloyd's.

CU retreat from home loan risk holds loss

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

COMMERCIAL Union has avoided the latest underwriting disaster hitting other composite life and general insurance companies, thanks to a tactical withdrawal from the mortgage indemnity market. Tony Wyand, executive director, said CU had fared better than the industry average because it had concentrated on controlling risks.

CU still made a pre-tax operating loss of £42.4 million for the nine months to September 30, against a profit of £27.2 million last time, even after £55 million of British storm losses.

For the third quarter, CU made a pre-tax loss of £14.8 million, compared with a profit of £12.2 million a year earlier, as British losses stabilised and subsidence claims tailed off.

Mortgage indemnity claims cost a relatively modest £9.1 million, nearly half in the third quarter. CU decided to run down its mortgage guarantee book in 1986, after an internal review by John Carter, director responsible for worldwide underwriting, and Peter Ward, head of UK operations, because the business had been unprofitable since 1978. Since then, its market share had been run down to only 2 per cent.

Mr Wyand said that as a result of this "far-sighted decision", mortgage indemnity claims were not a serious difficulty. Most premium rates on commercial insurance were still woefully inadequate, CU claimed, but increases in areas such as marine and personal lines were patchy.

The group, which claims to be the world's biggest marine insurer, is still suffering from competition in 1989. Mr Carter said increases in rates take, on average, 12 to 18 months to feed through into profits.

The group's overall underwriting loss was up from £236 million to £338 million for the nine months. After investment income, which showed an underlying rise of only 1 per cent, the non-life business made an operating loss of £123 million (£47.3 million).

In Britain, which includes its London market commercial insurance, CU made a loss of £52.3 million against £8.7 million a year ago on non-life business. Losses included an £11 million claim for a fire at the New London Underwriting Centre, partly owned by CU. Mr Ward said that the recession had produced sharp increases in claims for arson and theft, particularly of personal computers from shops and offices.

The life assurance business, to which The Netherlands is the biggest contributor, increased profits by 8 per cent to £80.7 million, despite losses of about £3 million in newer continental operations.

Shareholders funds have risen £89 million to £1.32 billion so far this year. After realised investment gains, net attributable profits were £10.9 million (£61.8 million).

TIM BISHOP

"Far-sighted": John Carter, head of underwriting

Lep chief resigns

By Our City Staff

JOHN Read has resigned as chairman and chief executive of Lep Group, which is 27 per cent owned by Michael Ashcroft's ADT, renewing concern about the distribution and security company's uncertain prospects.

Mr Read, chairman since 1982, is succeeded by Peter Grant, currently deputy chairman, who yesterday warned that the board was "more cautious" about this year's financial results than was indicated when the interim results were published in September, whenLep said that full-year profits would be less than half the £29.4 million earned in the previous year. Lep's shares fell 3p to a new low of 14p.

Last month Lep agreed to a £470 million refinancing package, together with £40 million in extended facilities, from its 30 main banks, but a new agreement with the banks will be sought early next year.

Outhwaite 'uncritical' of volatile contracts'

By Our City Staff

RICHARD Outhwaite, an underwriter at Lloyd's, was "astonishingly uncritical" of the "volatile" asbestos-related contracts that lost him £260 million, the High Court heard yesterday.

Mr Outhwaite is at the centre of a key legal action brought by 987 of his names. Disaster hit his syndicate 317/661 after he underwrote 32 excess of loss reinsurance contracts covering American asbestos producers.

The names, including Virginia Wade, Edward Heath, Tony Jacklin and Lord Weidenfeld, are suing the Outhwaite Agency and 81 members' agencies for £150 million for negligence and breach of contract.

Their key witness, Ulrich von Eicken, a reinsurance expert, strongly criticised Mr Outhwaite for relying so heavily on brokers' information rather than doing his own research.

In his report prepared for the case, Mr von Eicken said: "Mr Outhwaite seems to have been astonishingly uncritical in his treatment of the material produced to him by the brokers on some of the run-off contracts he wrote."

He said that, although brokers had a duty to reveal relevant details of the risks, their overriding obligation was to clients — the cedant syndicates.

He said many Lloyd's underwriters had taken on run-offs of American casualty business without realising the full implications of the risks they were backing because of the contracts' "superficial attraction".

Mr von Eicken told the court: "People did not know too much about it [American casualty business] but there was the attraction of getting a premium in and hoping the losses would stay away for a long time as is the case in long-tail business." But he added that such business was very "volatile".

The case, the largest in Lloyd's history, is expected to last until next February.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Rolls-Royce wins £180m US order

ROLLS-Royce, the aircraft engine giant, has won an engine order that could be worth more than £180 million. USAir, the American airline, has selected Rolls-Royce RB211-535 engines to power as many as 30 new Boeing 757 aircraft it will acquire between 1993 and 1997. The airline is the fifth American carrier to operate the Rolls-Royce powered 757, of which 403 have been delivered or are on order. Rolls-Royce had announced another sale, to McDonnell Douglas, the American planemaker, last week.

Meanwhile, British Aerospace announced yesterday that the Airlines of Britain group, which includes British Midlands Airways, had ordered 20 new aircraft in a deal worth about £110 million.

Montagu appointed

SAMUEL Montagu, the corporate finance house, has been appointed adviser on the sale of 52 per cent of the Italian state shareholding in Cementerie del Tirreno, one of Italy's largest cement groups.

The privatisation, which is expected to fetch more than £100 million, is the first in Italy for many years. Potential buyers include large building products manufacturers, possibly including British companies.

Wagon slides 37%

WAGON Industrial Holdings, the engineering group, made pre-tax profits of £6 million for the six months to end September, almost 37 per cent down on the first half of last year. Most of the fall stems from a £2 million provision for future redundancy and rationalisation costs.

Paul Taylor, the chairman, said he expects the pace of recovery to be gradual and biased towards the second half of 1992. The interim dividend is maintained at 6.325p.

Renault profit surges

RENAULT, the French car maker, made a pre-tax profit of Fr2.9 billion in the first nine months this year against Fr1.72 billion for all of 1990.

Pre-tax profit was cut by Fr79 million because of its stake in Volvo, which includes 8.19 per cent of Volvo AB, 25 per cent of Volvo Car and 45 per cent of Volvo Trucks. Volvo AB made an operating loss of Skr697 million (£60 million) in the third quarter, against a loss of Skr182 million in 1990.

Nestlé expects increase

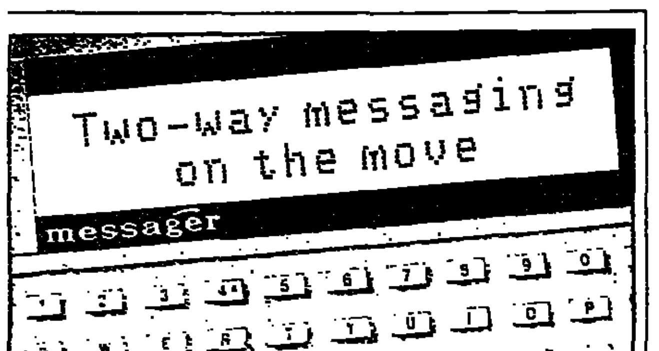
NESTLÉ, the Swiss multinational food group, will report higher profits this year, provided there are no adverse currency movements, according to Helmut Maucher, the company's chief executive.

Herr Maucher estimated that turnover would be about SFr 50 billion (£19.6 billion). Last year, Nestlé, which owns Rowntree, Britain's second-largest chocolate maker, made a net profit of SFr 2.27 billion on turnover of SFr 46.4 billion.

ANZ profits fall 35%

ANZ, the Australian bank, suffered a 35 per cent fall in net profits to Aus$266 million (£117 million) in the year to end September due to a sharp rise in bad debts, centred in its Australian business banking division.

The group's bad debt provisions rose 33 per cent to Aus$1.05 billion. During the year, ANZ reduced employee numbers by 2,229, and said it is now examining the future of a further 5,000 jobs.



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Clowes 'wanted to repay'

By Our City Staff

POLICE held Peter Clowes, the former investment chief, in a "dramatic" swoop just days after he agreed to hand over all his assets to investors in his troubled fund management group, a court was told.

Mr Clowes told an Old Bailey jury he was surrounded by police cars and was arrested before he could leave his car when he went to buy a paper in his then home village of Prestbury, Cheshire.

Mr Clowes, aged 48, who denies fraud and theft charges, said he was taken first to Macclesfield police station then driven home and on to Bishopsgate police station in the City of London. He was charged and bailed next day. Giving evidence for the third day, he said on June 12, 1988, a few days before his arrest, he voluntarily entered into a deed of assignment with liquidators appointed to wind up Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers.

"I was concerned ... to pass control to them of all my assets wherever they were in the world . . . for the benefit of investors," he said. He had already decided to repay BCGM investors in full. Aware of the effect liquidation of the on-shore funds could have on Barlow Clowes International, his other company, in Gibraltar, he decided to return those investments also.

The run on funds in the offshore scheme forced him to call in receivers. He told Anthony Hacking QC, defending, that he felt the Securities and Investment Board's court action to appoint liquidators to BCGM was not necessary. "I had seen 15 years work just destroyed," he said. Mr Clowes, of Whiteley Green, Cheshire, denies nine charges under the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958. Eight allege he made false statements to induce investments from individuals of up up to £400,000.

On the ninth, Mr Clowes is jointly charged with Peter Naylor, aged 35, of Send Barnes, Surrey, and Guy von Cramer, aged 29, of Micklethwaite, West Yorkshire. All deny conspiring between October 1, 1983, and November 25, 1987, to induce members of the public to enter investment schemes by making "misleading, false or deceptive" statements. The three, and accountant Christopher Newman, aged 37, of Polstead, Suffolk, also deny 11 theft charges of nearly £17 million. The trial continues.

MMC blocks poster deal

By Wolfgang Münchau

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission has ruled against the acquisition by Mills & Allen, the poster advertising group, of Brunton Curtis Outdoor Advertising. The MMC blocked the deal on monopolies grounds, marking the third time that it has ruled against further concentration in this market segment.

Mills & Allen, formerly owned by MAI, the money broking and media group, is presently a subsidiary of Avenir Havas Media, Europe's largest poster advertising company and itself a subsidiary of Havas, the French advertising group. Avenir Havas Media is also Europe's largest poster advertising company.

In 1987, the MMC told MAI to reduce its share in the roadside hoardings market after MAI acquired London and Continental Advertising Holdings.

Philip Santini, chief executive of Mills & Allen, expressed disappointment at the MMC's decision. "This is all the more surprising as its decision goes against the views of the largest consumers of our product, who supported our stand, subject to some undertakings which we were happy to give," he said.

The definition of the market is the main sticking point, with the MMC appearing to see outdoor advertising alone as the relevant market, while Mills & Allen preferred to view the advertising market as an entity.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
ASDA Gp	5,200	Cadburys	1,500	Lonrho	1,400	Royal Ins	1,200
Abbey Natl	1,400	Cm Union	573	Lucas	9,300	Ryl Bk Scot	571
Alld-Lyons	2,700	Courtaulds	1,000	MEPC	1,600	Sainsbury	4,900
Anglian W	507	Enterpr Oil	1,200	Marks Spr	1,400	Scot & New	719
Argyll Gp	3,200	Eurotnnl U	341	Maxwell C	6,500	Scot Power	4,700
Arjo Wiggn	1,800	Fisons	2,300	Midlnd Bk	2,400	Sears	4,200
AB Foods	667	Forte	1,800	NatWst Bk	2,400	Svrn Trent	1,100
BAA	3,000	GRE	5,800	Nat Power	651	Shell Trans	6,000
BAT Inds	2,300	GUS A	298	Nth Wst W	637	SmKl Bch	1,100
BET	5,100	Gen Acc	909	Nthrn Fds	2,200	Smith Nph	5,100
BICC	479	Gen Elec	6,900	P & O	1,200	Sun Allnce	210
BOC	1,700	Glaxo	4,000	Pearson	516	TSB	1,000
BP	9,400	Grand Met	2,900	Pilkington	1,200	Tarmac	813
BTR	3,200	Guinness	2,400	PowerGen	674	Tate & Lyle	1,200
Bk of Scot	935	Hanson	9,700	Prudential	11,000	Tesco	2,700
Barclays	3,200	Hawkr Sid	3,000	RMC	178	Thames W	1,300
Bass	319	Hillsdown	1,100	RTZ	2,300	Thrn EMI	967
Blue Circle	755	ICI	1,600	Rank Org	415	Traf House	2,000
Boots	1,600	Inchcape	651	Reckitt Col	614	Unilever	1,500
Brit Aero	1,600	Kingfisher	912	Redland	2,300	Utd Bisc	1,300
Brit Airwys	3,600	LASMO	853	Reed Intl	377	Vodafone	1,900
Brit Gas	9,100	Ladbroke	2,000	Rentokil	552	Wellcome	1,200
Brit Steel	10,000	Land Secs	862	Reuters	753	Whitbd 'A'	2,700
Brit Tele	2,700	Legal & Gn	517	Rolls Royce	3,200	Wlms Hld	1,200
Cable Wire	4,000	Lloyds Bk	1,100	Rothmans	141	Willis Crrn	2,800

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)
Dow Jones .... 2946.78 (+15.21)
S&P Composite ...... 380.02 (+0.60)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge . 23199.86 (-127.00)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 4200.94 (-60.29)

FT-SE Euro 100 1076.00 (+0.89)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 90.3 (+0.3)

Sydney: AO .... 1632.5 (-24.3)

Frankfurt: DAX .... Closed

Brussels:
General .... 5504.34 (-38.69)

Paris: CAC .... 484.69 (-7.56)

Zurich: SKA Gen ...... 479.0 (+2.0)

London:
FT A All-Share .... 1194.77 (+4.35)
FT 500 .... 1335.98 (+5.06)
FT Gold Mines .... 156.5 (+3.3)
FT Fixed interest ..... 96.39 (-0.01)
FT Govt Secs .... 86.72 (same)
Bargains 25821
SEAQ Volume 481.2m
USM (Datastream) 141.26 (+0.57)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
November 18	November 29	February 20	March 2

Call options were taken out on 20/11/91: Aviva Pet, Brent Walker, British Steel, Cabra Estates, Chrysalis, Conroy Pet, ERA, Hanson Wts, LWT, Pilkington, Ratners, Ross, Smith & Nephew, Tullow Oil, Williams Holdings. Put & Call: Tarmac.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 35072	Dec 91	2495.0	2508.0	2482.0	2494.0	8531
	Mar 92	2537.5	2537.5	2525.0	2530.5	112
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 162392	Dec 91	89.50	89.54	89.50	89.53	10027
	Mar 92	89.91	89.95	89.89	89.94	10280
	Jun 92	90.04	90.10	90.04	90.10	2542
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 38568	Dec 91	94.95	94.95	94.91	94.94	2773
	Mar 92	95.16	95.16	95.10	95.14	944
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 178936	Dec 91	90.55	90.56	90.52	90.53	3354
	Mar 92	90.87	90.91	90.86	90.87	7901
US Treasury Bond Previous open interest: 5774	Dec 91	99-29	100-02	99-20	99-24	1718
	Mar 92	98-27	98-27	98-27	98-27	14
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 50848	Dec 91	95-07	95-12	94-28	95-02	20300
	Mar 92	95-11	95-16	95-03	95-07	343
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 91	99.70	99.70	99.65	99.65	10
	Mar 92	99.91	99.91	99.82	99.83	366
German Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 85964	Dec 91	86.14	86.21	86.10	86.18	18936
	Mar 92	86.62	86.66	86.57	86.65	5842
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 5170	Dec 91	90.00	90.04	89.97	89.98	816
	Mar 92	90.42	90.43	90.34	90.35	302
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 25381	Dec 91	91.92	91.95	91.92	91.92	669
	Mar 92	92.30	92.36	92.30	92.32	2039
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 18385	Dec 91	96.88	96.96	96.80	96.87	3280
	Mar 92	96.92	96.93	96.86	96.92	140

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Lyon .	550	55	75	82	9	17	25
(*594)	600	25	46	54	30	38	47
ASDA	34	10	12½	-	1	3	-
(*41)	43	4½	7	-	6	8½	-
Bass.........	900	55	74	-	16	25	-
(*947)	950	19	45	63	43	52	57
Boots	420	25	41	47	9	16	21
(*435)	460	6	18	24	35	38	42
Br Airways	200	18	27	30	6½	11	15
(*210)	220	8½	17	21	17	20	25
BP	300	24	30	33	5	8	10½
(*315)	330	7	14	18	18	22	25
Br Steel.....	70	11	13	14½	3	4	6
(*81)	80	4	7½	9½	6	8½	10½
C & W	500	45	62	72	9	16	22
(*521)	550	16	34	45	30	39	44
CU.	460	27	35	43	10½	24	27
(*467)	500	9½	16	25	37	47	50
Courtauld .	460	33	49	55	9½	15	19
(*476)	500	12	28	34	30	32	37
GKN	300	23	29	32	9	20	24
(*303)	330	8	14	20	27	38	41
Grnd Met	800	54	68	90	17	27	32
(*828)	850	25	42	63	43	53	55
ICI..........	1150	95	-	-	14	-	-
(*1209)	1200	60	83	102	29	59	63
Kingfishr..	500	46	62	67	6	11	18
(*532)	550	15	32	40	28	35	40
Ladbroke..	249	20	29	-	6	11	-
(*258)	268	9½	17	-	15	21	-
Land Sec.	460	37	50	55	4	8	14
(*496)	500	11	26	30	22	25	32
M & S.	280	21	30	34	5½	8	12
(*292)	300	8	19	22	14	16	21
Sainsbury.	326	19	-	-	7½	-	-
(*330)	356	5½	-	-	28	-	-
Shell	500	23	28	40	12	23	25
(*502)	550	4½	8½	17	50	55	56
Smkl Bch.	800	46	69	87	20	30	35
(*813)	850	20	43	61	47	55	60
Storehse.....	90	5	8	11	10	12	14
(*89)	100	3	5	6	20	21	22
Trafalgar ..	211	19	-	-	9½	-	-
(*222)	231	7	-	-	22	-	-
Ultramar .	300	31	36	-	13	17	-
(*314)	330	13	19	-	27	33	-
Unilever	800	47	65	77	14	28	32
(*826)	850	23	38	52	40	50	55
Utd Bisc ..	360	30	39	43	5	12	15
(*377)	390	13	21	27	20	28	32

November 20, 1991 Tot: 32244 Call: 17110 Put: 15134 FT-SE Call: 3365 Put: 3425
*Underlying security price.

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
BAA	460	26½	40	53	1	14	20
(*485)	500	1	18	33	18	35	40
BAT Ind ..	600	22	47	56	1½	14	24
(*620)	650	1	19	31	34	38	49
BTR	360	23	35	40	1	7	14
(*381)	390	1	16	23	10	19	30
Br Aero	360	1	13	17	32	36	51
(*329)	384	1	8	9	56	56	70
Br Telcm..	330	23	31	-	1	8	-
(*352)	360	1	14	23	9	21	24
Cadbury	390	9½	33	40	1	15	26
(*399)	420	1	19	25	22	32	42
Guinness..	500	5	30	41	3	15	22
(*503)	525	1	18	21	24	29	35
GEC..........	180	9	14	20	1	5½	7½
(*186)	200	1	5	9½	14	16	18
Hanson	200	1½	9	14	1	13	14½
(*200)	220	¼	3	6	21	28½	30
LASMO ..	300	1½	17	23	20	25	33
(*285)	330	1	8	14	50	50	52
Lucas........	130	1	8	12	7	11	14
(*125)	140	½	4½	8½	17	17	19
P & O	472	3	30	-	5	21	-
(*471)	519	1	11	17	51	52	65
Pilkingtn .	140	1½	9	15	8	14	17
(*131)	160	½	4	8	27	32	32
Prudential	220	16	25	28	1	4½	8½
(*234)	240	1	11½	17	7	13	18
Racal Elc....	51	4½	7	-	½	3	-
(*55)	55	1	-	-	1½	-	-
RTZ.........	500	25	45	55	1	12	23
(*520)	550	½	20	27	32	36	49
Scot New..	360	30	37	48	1½	7	10
(*389)	390	1½	18	30	4	20	23
Tesco	220	1	13	17	6	12	15
(*214)	240	1	5½	10	26	24	27
Thames W	350	1½	17	-	7	12	-
(*344)	370	1	8	-	25	27	-
Vodafone..	330	30	40	-	1	7	-
(*356)	360	3	23	34	5	19	23

FT-SE INDEX (*2475)

	2400	2450	2500	2550	2600	2650
Calls						
Nov	98	50	19	4½	1	½
Dec	123	87	58	34	18	8
Jan	152	114	81	57	38	22
Feb	171	137	100	80	55	36
Puts						
Nov	8	18	40	72	122	172
Dec	24	39	58	86	129	180
Jan	37	50	75	100	135	175
Feb	47	65	81	112	136	175

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat.	260	23	30	34	2	7	9
(*279)	280	8	16	22	7	16	19
Amstrad	30	4	6½	8	2½	4	5½
(*32)	35	1½	4	6	5	7	8
Barclays	360	35	45	48	3½	8	12
(*386)	390	10½	24	28	11	23	27
Blue Circ..	220	14	23	26	4	7½	13
(*227)	240	3½	13	15	15	18	25
Br Gas......	240	16	22	24	3½	8	11
(*251)	260	4	10	14	11	18	20
Dixons......	220	14	22	30	5	12	14
(*228)	240	3½	12	20	16	22	24
Eurotnnl...	390	18	42	55	20	30	37
(*393)	420	8	27	42	43	52	58
Forte........	260	10	20	25	5½	10	15
(*262)	280	2½	10	15	20	22	25
Glaxo.......	750	65	94	115	7	23	30
(*796)	800	31	63	85	24	41	50
Hawker	700	27	42	47	5	8	15
(*720)	750	4	14	18	37	39	44
Hillsdwn ..	180	10	-	21	4	-	12
(*197)	197	3	8½	-	14	16	-
Lonrho	220	11	16	19	5	14	18
(*224)	240	2½	7	11	19	29	32
Midland...	220	12	21	29	6	12	14
(*218)	240	3½	12	19	21	22	26
Reuter......	850	46	79	90	14	33	43
(*874)	900	19	51	73	39	57	67
R-Royce	130	5½	9½	12	6	11½	13½
(*133)	140	2	5½	8½	13	18	20
Sears.........	90	8½	13	14	2½	5½	7
(*96)	100	3	7	9	8	10	12
Thm Emi.	750	34	48	69	7	21	26
(*767)	800	7	24	42	36	48	51
TSB.........	120	9	13	16	2	5½	7½
(*125)	130	4	7	11	7	12	13
Vaal Reefs..	60	8	11	13	2	5	6½
(*$65)	70	1½	6	8½	7	10	13
Wellcome .	850	52	90	117	18	38	50
(*879)	900	25	63	90	45	60	70
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Fisons	390	34	43	53	7	13	15
(*405)	420	16	25	36	20	27	29
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Eastrn Elc	230	11	17	22	1	8	10
(*238)	250	1	7	13	12	19	21
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Natl Pwr .	140	9½	12½	18	3	6	8
(*146)	160	2	5½	8	17	19	20
Scot Pwr...	100	4	-	-	3	-	-
(*100)	110	1½	4½	7	11	14½	15

COMMODITIES

REPORT: Wheat futures and physical markets again ignored any caution as no fresh news emerged. Strong buying led by shippers moved values to new contract highs. Robusta coffee futures finished on a six month second position peak. Raw sugar futures were little changed after largely erasing earlier small losses in quiet conditions.

LONDON FOX

COCOA

Dec	735-734	Mar	893-890
Mar	773-772	May	910-906
May	796-795	Jul	928-922
Jul	820-818	Sep	941-940
Sep	842-841		
Dec	868-867	Volume: 4442	

COFFEE (ROBUSTA)

Sep	unq	May	unq
Nov	604-601	Jul	unq
Jan	607-606	Sep	unq
Mar	591-590	Volume: 4880	

RAW SUGAR (FOB)

C Czarnikow		Aug	189.2-83.4
Spot: 182.0		Oct	186.2-83.4
Dec.	unq	Dec	186.2-75.4
Mar	182.2-81.6	Mar	191.2-70.4
May	184.2-79.8	Volume: 683	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	252.5-51.5
Spot: 274.0		Dec	250.4-49.0
Mar	273.0-71.7	Mar	251.0-50.0
May	272.5-71.0	May	252.0-49.5
Aug	275.0-73.5	Volume: 1154	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 20

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	89.93	150.55	103.84
(+/-)	+8.97	*-4.52	-0.58
Eng/Wales	89.93	152.44	103.32
(+/-)	+8.97	-5.69	-0.63
(%)	+3.2	-4.1	+0.4
Scotland:	n/a	144.49	107.47
(+/-)	n/a	+0.66	+1.76
(%)	n/a	-8.3	-37.5

* Estimated dead carcase weight

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (p/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Nov	104.5	104.4	Feb	105.2	104.5
Jan	103.2	103.5		Volume:68	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT
(close £/t)

Nov	121.25
Jan	124.05
Mar	127.50
May	130.50
Jun	132.25
	Volume: 346

BARLEY
(close £/t)

Nov	115.55
Jan	118.15
Mar	121.40
May	123.25
Sep	unq
	Volume: 8

HI-PRO SOYA
(close £/t)

Dec	127.30
Feb	129.00
Apr	128.80
Jun	123.50
Aug	124.80
	Volume: 135

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	130.0	130.3
Apr	130.5	129.8
May	146.5	146.5
		Volume: 150

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/k)

Dec 52.00-51.00

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR) - London 6.00pm:

Crude oil levels collapsed after the API figures registered a large crude build.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.60	-0.55
Brent 15 day (Dec)	20.70	-0.50
Brent 15 day (Jan)	20.65	-0.45
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	21.90	-0.50
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	21.85	-0.45

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	Bid: 236 (n/c)	Offer: 239 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	203 (-2)	204 (-3)
Non EEC 1H Dec	204 (-4)	205 (-4)
Non EEC 1H Jan	206 (-3)	207 (-3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	86 (-1)	87 (-1)
Naphtha	214 (-2)	217 (-3)

IPE FUTURES
GAS OIL

Dec	200.25-00.00	Apr	183.00-82.25
Jan	200.75-00.50	May	178.50-77.50
Feb	196.50-96.00	Jun	174.00 BID
Mar	189.75-89.25		Vol: 9050

BRENT

Dec	20.55-20.65	Feb	20.45-20.50
Jan	20.60-20.65		Vol: n/a

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

Nov 91	High: 1605	Low: 1600	Close: 1628
Dec 91	1630	1630	1630
Jan 92	1665	1645	1665
Apr 92	1665	1660	1665

Vol: 261 lots. Open int'st: 2678 Index 1598 -7

FOX MGMI INDEX

Nov	Bid: unq	Offer: unq
Jan	Bid: unq	Offer: unq
Jun	Bid: unq	Offer: unq
(5pm prices)		Volume: 0

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)			Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	Cash: 1310.0-1311.0	3mth: 1295.0-1296.0	Vol: 962050
Lead (£/tonne)	287.00-288.00	298.00-298.50	101450
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1152.0-1155.0	1155.0-1158.0	438825
Tin ($/tonne)	5480.0-5485.0	5551.0-5555.0	4565
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1135.0-1135.5	1163.0-1163.5	763375
Nickel ($/tonne)	7114.0-7115.0	7173.0-7175.0	29058

[illegible]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 91.2 (day's range 91.1-91.2).

[illegible]

Mkt Rates for Nov 20	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2337-3.2436	3.2373-3.2409	⅜-¼pr	⅞-¾pr
Brussels	59.03-59.37	59.09-59.30	10-5pr	19-14pr
Copenhagen	11.1350-11.1872	11.1452-11.1693	1½-⅜pr	3⅜-2pr
Dublin	1.0751-1.0785	1.0751-1.0761	6-1pr	18-8pr
Frankfurt	2.8716-2.8795	2.8747-2.8781	⅜-¼pr	⅞-¾pr
Lisbon	249.16-251.72	250.04-251.08	16-49ds	76-150ds
Madrid	181.49-182.53	181.74-182.38	32-36ds	97-109ds
Milan	2165.79-2176.48	2166.57-2171.36	1-3ds	5-7ds
Montreal	2.0282-2.0421	2.0382-2.0421	0.53-0.46pr	[illegible]
New York	1.7920-1.7980	1.7950-1.7960	0.88-0.87pr	2.51-2.49pr
Oslo	11.2654-11.3138	11.2654-11.2897	¼pr-par	1⅛-⅝pr
Paris	9.7996-9.8423	9.8115-9.8259	⅝-½pr	2⅛-1⅝pr
Stockholm	10.4628-10.5159	10.4792-10.5030	⅛-⅜ds	par-⅜ds
Tokyo	232.33-233.12	232.81-233.12	⅞-⅝pr	2⅜-2⅛pr
Vienna	20.1925-20.2689	20.2207-20.2499	2½-1⅝pr	6-3pr
Zurich	2.5445-2.5514	2.5480-2.5512	⅝-½pr	2⅛-1⅝pr

Source: Extel. Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

[illegible]

Argentina austral*	17774.5-17802.3
Australia dollar	2.2727-2.2755
Bahrain dinar	0.6735-0.6815
Brazil cruzeiro*	1354.66-1355.97
Cyprus pound	0.808-0.818
Finland marka	7.805-7.865
Greece drachma	325.40-328.60
Hong Kong dollar	13.9032-13.9128
India rupee	46.15-46.55
Kuwait dinar KD	0.509-0.515
Malaysia ringgit	4.9078-4.9124
Mexico peso	5460-5560
New Zealand dollar	3.1681-3.1756
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.695-6.775
Singapore dollar	2.9849-2.9885
S Africa rand (fin)	5.3712-5.4560
S Africa rand (com)	4.9837-4.9919
U A E dirham	6.56-6.64

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.

[illegible]

Australia	1.2674-1.2682
Austria	11.30-11.32
Belgium (Com)	33.05-33.09
Canada	1.1362-1.1387
Denmark	6.2280-6.2330
France	5.4825-5.4875
Germany	1.6055-1.6065
Hong Kong	7.7533-7.7543
Ireland	1.6615-1.6630
Italy	1212.5-1213.5
Japan	129.70-129.80
Malaysia	2.7369-2.7379
Netherlands	1.8070-1.8080
Norway	6.3020-6.3070
Portugal	140.00-140.20
Singapore	1.6646-1.6656
Spain	101.35-101.45
Sweden	5.8520-5.8570
Switzerland	1.4223-1.4230

[illegible]

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10½ Finance Hse 10½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 12 Low 9½ Week fixed: 10[illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 10[illegible] ; 3 mth 10[illegible] . Sell: 2 mth 10[illegible] ; 3 mth 9[illegible] .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 10½, close 13 .

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	10½	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.77-4.72	5.08-5.03	5.00-4.95	4.98-4.93	5.07-5.02
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Oct 31, 1991 Agreed rates Nov 26, 1991 to Dec 24, 1991 Scheme I: 11.68%. Schemes II & III: 11.68%. Reference rate Oct 1, 1991 to Oct 31, 1991 Scheme IV & V: 10.447%.

[illegible]

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	4⅞-4¾	5-4⅞	5-4⅞	4⅞-4
Deutschemark:	9⅜-8⅞	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9¼-8¾
French Franc:	[illegible]	9¾-9⅝	[illegible]	[illegible]	9½-8½
Swiss Franc:	7¾-7½	[illegible]	[illegible]	8-7¾	7¾-6¾
Yen:	6⅜-6¼	[illegible]	6¼-6⅛	6-5⅞	6½-5½

[illegible]

Bullion: Open $362.50-362.90 Close: $362.30-362.80 High: $363.00-363.50
Low: $362.00-362.50 Krugerrand: $362.00-363.00 (£201.25-202.25)
Sovereigns: Old $86.25-87.25 (£47.50-48.50) New $86.00-87.00 (£47.25-48.25)
Platinum: $368.35 (£205.30) Silver: $4.08 (£2.265) Palladium: $85.25 (£47.50)

Rights issue underpins £359m purchase from GrandMet

Northern buys Express Dairy

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

NORTHERN Foods is buying the Express Dairy and Eden Vale food interests of Grand Metropolitan for £359 million, and financing the acquisition by means of a £227 million rights issue. The deal makes Northern the largest deliverer of milk to homes in Britain.

Northern is issuing 56.7 million new shares in a one-for-four rights issue at 415p. The issue has been underwritten by N M Rothschild.

Chris Haskins, Northern's chairman, said the nervousness of the stock market this week had caused the directors some concern but he added that the industrial logic and value for shareholders had convinced them they were right to go ahead. After initially falling 19p to 488p, the shares recovered to end the day up 19p at 526p.

Northern also announced its results for the six months to end-September, which showed an increase in profits in all divisions. Pre-tax profits rose 16.5 per cent to £55.2 million, sales rose 15.5 per cent to £656 million, earnings per share rose 17.5 per cent to 18.3p and the interim dividend is up 14.2 per cent at 6.85p.

The £359 million purchase price includes £25 million of debt and £8 million of tax liability. The businesses being acquired, which include the Ski brand, have net assets of £97 million and Mr Haskins said the rights issue was to cover the £229 million of goodwill.

After the deal, Northern's gearing will be 58 per cent.

Northern is reasonably confident that the deal will not be referred to the monopolies commission despite its 24 per cent share of the liquid milk market.

As a result of the acquisition, Northern will operate, directly and indirectly around 6,000 milk rounds, delivering to roughly 3.6 million households. Northern has plans to franchise the Express milk rounds.

Mr Haskins said that there was scope for extensive cost cutting and rationalisation of the merged businesses, but he added that no decisions had yet been taken about cutting jobs. Northern employs 22,000 and Express Dairies about 6,000.

Grand Metropolitan, which saw its shares rise 1p to 827p, said talks were taking place with several parties over the sale of Express Ireland, which analysts believe could fetch £100 million.

JAMES CALVERT-JONES

Scope for rationalisation: Chris Haskins, of Northern Foods

Blue Arrow adviser 'changed rules'

By OUR CITY STAFF

ADVISERS to Blue Arrow, the employment agency, "changed the rules of the game" at the close of its record £837 million cash call in 1987, it was alleged yesterday.

It was claimed that as part of a rescue package to turn failure into success, advisers ignored the deadline of the rights issue before buying stock. Martin Gibbs, former head of corporate finance at UBS Phillips & Drew Securities, the broker, told an Old Bailey jury that advisers took a "broader view" before saving the deal.

It is alleged that advisers misled the market by secretly boosting the subscription of issue shares after the close of the cash call from 38 to 49 per cent, and also bought into the subsequent placing to present the failed issue as a success. Mr Gibbs maintains advisers decided to invest millions in the issue in the best interests of Blue Arrow, shareholders, and underwriters, as failure would have meant a fall in the share price.

He said in the "new world" of the City after Big Bang, advisers had the capital backing to become investors as well. Nicholas Purnell, QC, leading the prosecution in the long-running fraud trial, said that advisers had "simply ignored the close of the rights issue" at 3pm on September 28, 1987.

Mr Gibbs denied the rules were changed, but he added: "I simply cannot see why if you do something at five to 3 o'clock, you cannot do it at five to 9 o'clock."

The trial continues today.

Lilley seeks Williams assurances

By MATTHEW BOND

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, said that Williams Holdings' £700 million bid for Racal Electronics will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, unless Williams agrees to undertakings relating to competition in the British locks market.

Despite the wording, Mr Lilley's ruling has been welcomed by Williams and its advisers, who are expected to press the Takeover Panel today to restart the bid's timetable immediately. The panel suspended the bid on day 37.

Williams owns Yale, the number two lock supplier in the UK market, while Racal owns Chubb, Britain's biggest supplier. However, Williams undertook to sell the UK operations of Chubb at the bid's outset and later agreed it would also sell Union Parkes, a commercial locks supplier owned by Racal.

Williams is optimistic the necessary undertakings can be agreed with the Office of Fair Trading, although a statutory ten-day consultation period prevents any final agreements being signed before November 29.

Williams said the sale of Chubb UK and Union Parkes, would represent the loss of less than 25 per cent of Racal Security's worldwide turnover of £650 million and about 10 per cent of Racal Group's turnover. Racal said the statement was misleading because Williams would be required to sell the locks and safes business of Racal Security worldwide, accounting for 30 per cent of Racal Security's sales.

Brittan fails to stop cash aid for Air France

From TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan was narrowly defeated yesterday in his bid to prevent the French government injecting Fr2 billion into Air France, the state carrier. Nine of Sir Leon's 17 commission colleagues, the minimum needed for approval, voted in favour of the state aid.

Heavy lobbying in favour of the cash by Sir Leon's Belgian colleague Karel Van Miert, the transport commissioner, probably saved the day for Air France and prevented another major showdown between the British competition commissioner and the French government.

Relations between Sir Leon and Paris are only just getting back to their normal state of *froideur* after the De Havilland case, which earned the commissioner national opprobrium in France as a wrecker of state interests. Mr Van Miert, who earlier this year persuaded the commission to approve state aid to Sabena on the grounds that it was the Belgian airline's last chance, used a similar argument to convince his colleagues on the Air France payment.

In a statement, the commission characterised the Fr2 billion as a "normal financial transaction" that would have won the approval of private investors in normal market conditions.

The commission also noted that Air France's losses and overall debt had mounted as a result of the Gulf War traffic slowdown, just at the time it was trying to integrate its most recent purchases, Air Inter and UTA.

Sir Leon: defeated

Air France made a loss of Fr1.16 billion in the first six months of the year, compared to Fr262.8 million a year earlier. The loss was less than that of British Airways and about the same as those of KLM, American Airlines and Lufthansa. Air France is wholly state-owned, but the state-owned Banque Nationale de Paris took a Fr1 billion stake in the carrier in July.

The state injection and the BNP stake are part of a three-year plan by Air France to raise Fr5 billion in fresh capital to keep its debts in line.

Sir Leon wants all state subsidies to the airline sector curbed, to allow smaller carriers to establish a niche in the EC market.

Omani deal vital for Vosper

By MARTIN BARROW

VOSPER Thornycroft faces a tense wait until the Omani navy confirms that it wants the British warship builder to supply two corvettes. Agreement has been reached in principle but detailed contract negotiations have yet to concluded.

The order is of vital importance to Vosper, given the Royal Navy's decision to indefinitely postpone orders for another seven minehunters that were expected to be built by the company.

Vosper is working on its penultimate minehunter for the Royal Navy and is seeking more work overseas to bridge the gap expected before the next Royal Navy orders emerge, which could take up to two years.

Similar vessels are being built for Saudi Arabia through the al-Yamamah oil-for-arms defence project. A second minehunter was launched in May with a third to be launched in December next year. However, funding for a fourth vessel has proved difficult to arrange, partly because of the financial difficulties of British Aerospace, the prime contractor of the al-Yamamah project.

Vosper reported yesterday pre-tax profits of £7.1 million (£6.1 million) for the six months to end-September and earnings of 15.5p a share, up from 12.9p. The interim dividend rises to 4.1p (3.5p).

Turnover was £74.8 million (£63.2 million), with 60 per cent attributable to exports. The value of work in hand was £350 million (£400 million at the last year-end).

During the period, the company continued its policy of expanding non-defence activities with the acquisition of Van Dusen and Meyer, an American manufacturer of yacht stabilisers, for $1.9 million, and PDL Aircraft Support. However, talks leading to the takeover of another company were aborted.

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Thomson up in third quarter

Thomson Corporation, the publishing, information and travel group, reported third-quarter net income of $194 million, against $190 million.

Net income for the first nine months of 1991 was down from $302 million to $209 million. $50 million of the fall was attributed to a new accounting requirement to amortise publishing rights and circulation.

Capital loss

Capital Radio has taken a £2 million loss on a 20 per cent stake in Century, an Irish radio station that closed this week. Capital's full-year figures will be announced next Wednesday. The shares lost 1p to 189p.

Barrick deal

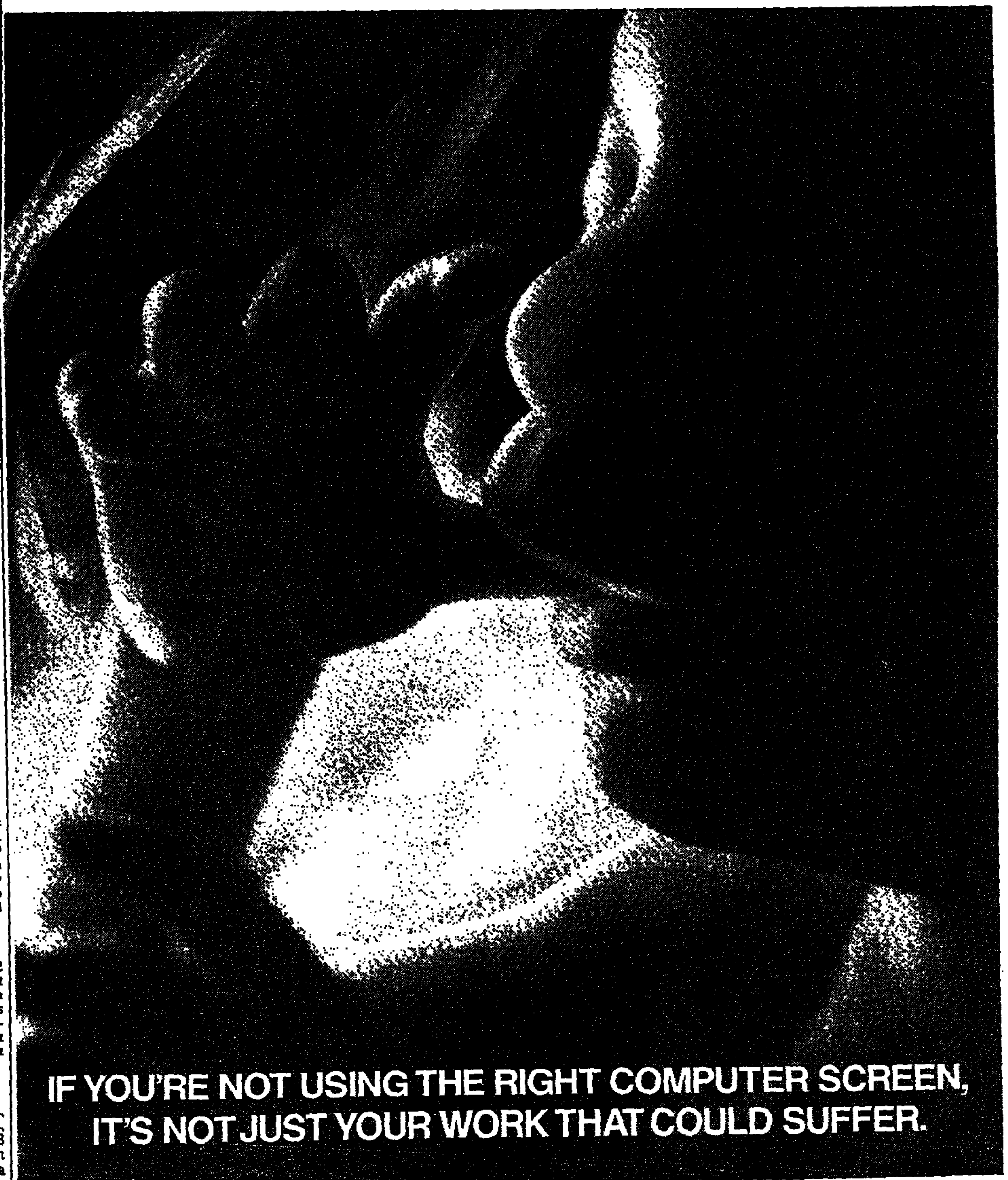
American Barrick Resources, owner of the Goldstrike mine, Nevada, plans to raise C$113 million via a "bought deal". It will offer for sale in Canada and Europe four million shares at C$28.25 each. The cash will be used for debt repayment and acquisitions, and to develop Goldstrike.

Forward back

Pre-tax profits at Forward Group, which makes printed circuit boards, halved from £408,000 to £203,000 in the six months to July 31. Earnings per share fell from 3.6p to 1.9p but the interim dividend is maintained at 1p.

Saab down

Saab-Scania, the Swedish aircraft and car maker, reported a fall in income to 2.03 billion crowns (£190 million) for the first nine months of the year, compared with Kr2.72 last time.



IF YOU'RE NOT USING THE RIGHT COMPUTER SCREEN, IT'S NOT JUST YOUR WORK THAT COULD SUFFER.

An unpleasant thought, certainly.

But there is evidence to suggest that working with some computer screens can put *the unborn child at risk.*

In 1988, for instance, a study at the Kaiser-Permanente Institute in America found that women who used screens for *more than 20 hours* a week had 'a significantly elevated risk' of problems during pregnancy compared *with women doing* other types of office work.

Dr. Irving Selikoff, a world-renowned specialist in occupational health, said that this *study added* 'substantial authority' to concerns about the health risks of screens.

Although the evidence is not conclusive, experimental work *in this area continues.*

In fact, in Europe the degree of concern is such that *from* 1993 the EC is insisting that radiation from computer screens *is reduced to negligible levels. One manufacturer* has already gone that far. And further. EIZO.

As the name suggests, it's a Japanese company. And its *screens* are turning out to be remarkably popular throughout the world

Perhaps it's simply because EIZO screens have been *proved* to emit the very lowest levels of the type of radiation that is *believed to be potentially harmful.*

In recent tests by the safety-conscious Swedish government, for example, only a handful of manufacturers *satisfied their tough new* standards at both low and high resolution.

EIZO was one of them.

Which is good news for anyone who's using an EIZO.

And even better news for the next generation

Sources: Am.J.Ind.Med 13 680-706 (1988); 'Electromagnetic Man' S. Best & C. Smith (1989); VDT News (July-Aug 1989); Swedish National Authority Board for Measurement and Testing: MPR II (July 1990)

8TIM1

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Losses double at Parkland Textile

By MARTIN BARROW

LOSSES at Parkland Textile (Holdings), the wool textile group, increased from £517,000 before tax to £1.37 million in the half-year to the end of August as the recession tightened its grip on the industry.

The company, which suffered early in the economic downturn, said it had experienced a noticeable increase in the volume of orders being placed, and budgeted sales levels had been exceeded in two consecutive months.

But the confident statement on current trading failed to enthuse investors and Parkland's ordinary shares and A shares fell 3p to 156p and 88p respectively.

Last year's comparable results included exceptional reorganisation costs of £520,000, which indicates that the underlying position deteriorated more than is suggested by the pre-tax figure. The company is reducing the interim dividend from 1.5p a share to 1p, which must be paid from reserves. The loss per share was 13.4p (4.7p loss).

Turnover fell £3 million to £24.6 million and reduced volumes caused lower trading profits of £304,000, down from £906,000.

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TEMPUS

Courtaulds' material gains defy slump

COURTAULDS is a notable success story, and the run that has taken the shares up by 25 per cent over the past year does not seem to be over yet.

In November 1989, Courtaulds successfully moved off its textile interests into a separate company; it has carried out various complementary restructuring exercises and has ambitions of a greater Far Eastern presence that should soon turn into a reality. This all suggests that Courtaulds as a speciality materials group is getting into its stride.

Interim pre-tax profits rose to £96.4 million, against £87.1 million, and the operating margin improved from 9.1 per cent to 10.2 per cent, on turnover hardly changed at £968 million (£947.8 million). That should look considerably stronger when the world's economies start to move decisively out of recession.

The positive impact on profits will be seen especially in the divisions closest to the consumer. Improved spending patterns will benefit Courtaulds' packaging, coatings and performance materials divisions.

Courtaulds' capital-intensive sectors (fibres and films, where operating profits rose from £24 million to £38 million, and chemicals) might take longer to benefit from improved world trade, though chief executive Sipko Huismans is determined to achieve further margin improvement.

Courtaulds' financial structure still looks good. Interest cover is eight times; the ratio of net debt to capital employed is 34 per cent; and the group, though ruling out mega-deals, is not averse to sensible add-on acquisitions.

A cash injection, possibly between £30 million and £40 million, is likely soon as negotiations to sell parts of the fine chemicals division are completed. A joint venture merger of the group's acetate yarn interests with those of Snia, of the Fiat group, is likely before Christmas.

Pre-tax profits could reach £200 million (£186 million) this financial year (to March 31), and at 476p, up 3p, the shares are trading on 12.5 times earnings. On 1993 pre-tax profit hopes of £230 million, the p/e ratio eases to 11.

Despite the share price run, and looking ahead, Courtaulds still looks attractive.

TIM BISHOP

Intent on margin growth: Sipko Huismans and finance chief Richard Lapthorne

Whitbread

FEW of the big brewers will thank Whitbread for pulling the first pint of their reporting season by drawing attention to the vexed problem of bad debts. Whitbread's interim figures, showing pre-tax profits down to £142.5 million from £152.8 million, also come as a useful reminder that it is not only the high street that is pinning all hopes on a good Christmas.

For Whitbread, a promising August and September turned out to be a false dawn; October trade was very quiet and indications for November no better. Given the traditionally slack trading in January and February, the next six weeks are crucial.

Year-end figures will probably bear £15 million of provisions in respect of bad debts as well as reflecting what has so far this year been the worst performance of the British beer market since 1948.

Whitbread has languished largely friendless this year, the shares underperforming the market by more than 10 per cent. The company is a pure brewing and retailing play, with particular exposure to the hard-hit Southeast. It is about half-way through a planned public house sell-off programme to comply with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ruling but will have to keep about 1,000 outlets unprofitably free of the tie until the market recovers.

Pre-tax profits should be about £266 million this year, leaving the shares on a forward multiple of about ten times' earnings. Any recovery from this low rating relative to Guinness and Grand Metropolitan will depend heavily on consumer spending, so the shares have their attractions only to investors who are prepared to bet on the jingle of Christmas cash tills.

RHM

SIR James Goldsmith has always cast a long shadow, as shareholders in Ranks Hovis McDougall are discovering to their cost.

It is over nine months since Sir James placed his 28.5 per cent stake in RHM at 300p. Yesterday, even after a 13p rise, the shares closed at 245p, stubbornly still displaying all the symptoms of chronic indigestion.

A cure for the condition is not obvious. Milling and baking may have seen another fall in its contribution, but it still accounts for 41 per cent of RHM's pre-tax profit. Despite the launch of Hovis White and similar innovations in the Mothers Pride range, it is difficult to see how the company can bring an early end to the bread price war.

Against this background and the economic climate, a 14.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £150 million looks creditable, although earnings per share (up 5 per cent to 29.5p) and total dividend (up 4.9 per cent to 13.36p) improved more modestly.

But still, with its core business under pressure, those nagging doubts remain. Has the company made enough of the £200 million generated by disposals in 1990? Small bolt-on acquisitions and capital expenditure has already seen net cash decline from £105 million to £78 million. With the company seemingly making heavy weather of furthering its European ambitions, there is the danger of missing the boat altogether.

The reduced opportunities for making below the line provisions could make matching this year's performance hard. Assuming profits of around £145 million, the shares are on a multiple of under 9. Undemanding but probably fairly rated.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 50 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0345 717373				
Masterrust	88.52	94.67	- 0.55	2.70
International	61.31	65.22	- 0.49	1.35
Dividend Gth	49.02	52.14	- 0.30	5.75
Global Gth Sec	52.76	56.12	- 0.22	1.10
Ethical Growth	54.75	58.22	- 0.21	2.68
High Inc Equity	131.30	139.60	- 0.50	6.09
Worldwide Bond	229.90	[illegible]	- 0.40	6.14
Gilts Fixed Int	116.50	123.90	- 0.20	9.25
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ 0224 633070. Dealing 0800 833580 20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ 071 374 6301				
Amer Inc Gth	28.17	29.85	- 0.34	2.66
European	66.14	[illegible]	- 0.18	[illegible]
European Inc	70.17	74.05	- 0.15	1.56
Exempt	711.30	755.50	- 4.80	[illegible]
Extra Inc	37.72	41.26	- 0.04	6.03
F East Emerg Ec	47.25	50.25	- 0.39	[illegible]
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon, SN1 1EL. 0793 514514. Dealing 0793 610366				
High Inc	328.80	349.90	+ 2.42	5.71
Equity Inc	184.80	196.80	+ 1.30	5.13
High Yield	197.60	210.40	+ 1.30	5.56
Balanced	547.30	582.50	+ 3.30	3.49
American Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.09
Wld Asset Val	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 0.35	1.25
Japan	134.10	142.90	- 1.50	0.01
Secs of Am	304.00	324.40	- 2.00	0.15
BL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD PO Box 125, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4PN 081 663 3030				
European Gth	91.56	97.22	- 0.35	1.59
1992 Euro Sp Op	59.92	64.07	- 0.25	1.60
International Inc	68.47	72.83	- 0.02	2.92
N American Gth	46.29	49.25	- 0.96	1.64
Pacific Growth	68.55	73.41	- 0.52	2.10
UK Growth Acc	[illegible]	93.71	- 0.78	[illegible]
UK Growth Dist	68.69	73.45	- 0.69	3.58
UK Income	57.05	61.01	- 0.23	7.34
BARCLAYS UNICORN Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7. 081 534 5544				
Capital	86.09	92.56	- 0.65	3.66
Euro Gth Inc	91.57	97.67	- 0.72	1.93
Extra Inc	92.21	95.62	- 0.65	6.78
General	194.20	207.70	- 0.60	4.18
Gilt Fxd Inc	51.67	53.75	- 0.07	10.13
Income	415.00	447.10	- 2.10	6.15
BARING FUND MANAGERS PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ. 081 658 9002				
American Gth	63.74	67.47	- 1.36	0.40
Amer Smllr Cos	72.35	77.07	- 1.98	0.20

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
-do- Acc	483.60	517.30	..	2.77
Income Growth	311.60	331.50	...	5.16
-do- Acc	388.50	413.40		5.16
Master Portfolio	5087.0	5493.0	0	2.93
-do- Acc	9049.0	9504.0	0	2.93
Special Sits	66.48	70.73	..	2.56
-do- Acc	74.68	79.56	..	2.56
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	963.50	993.50	..	6.07
-do- Acc	1067.0	1100.0	..	6.07
CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 3 Harbour Exchange Square, London E14 9GJ. 071 955 5050. Dealing 071 955 5055				
American Index	141.50	151.00	- 2.20	2.11
Capital	440.40	470.00	+ 1.40	4.00
European Index	110.10	117.50	- 0.10	2.11
Euro Gth	71.54	76.45	- 0.27	1.94
Far East Growth	64.54	68.57	- 0.69	1.23
Global Bond	20.34	21.59	- 0.03	9.50
Gold General	60.75	64.83	+ 0.09	2.35
Hong Kong	41.31	44.05	- 0.49	3.19
Income	435.60	446.70	+ 3.30	5.66
Intl Growth	58.49	62.41	- 0.79	1.42
Japan Growth	199.40	212.50	- 3.10	...
Japan Smllr Cos	28.35	30.25	- 0.36	..
Japan Index	61.49	65.61	- 0.50	0.34
Nth American	293.60	313.30	- 4.90	1.74
S'pore My Gth	32.46	34.64	- 0.13	..
Tiger Index	86.77	92.60	- 0.41	1.31
Thor Index	91.59	98.06	- 0.35	4.15
UK Index	105.60	112.70	+ 0.40	4.06
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN 071 606 0708				
American P folio	56.55	60.46	- 0.67	1.75
European P folio	59.40	63.40	- 0.50	1.22
Japanese P folio	43.83	46.54	- 0.20	
Pacific P folio	63.57	66.65	+ 1.15	2.87
Cazenove P folio	57.78	61.80	- 0.46	3.20
UK Income Gth	54.68	58.30	- 0.51	6.99
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815				
Investment Fd	544.05	546.45	.	5.29
Fixed Int	141.35	141.90	..	10.22
Deposit	10.25	..	10.65	...
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815				
Income	523.84	528.86	...	5.54
-do- Acc	1921.3	1937.2	...	...
Deposit	10.25	...	10.65	...
Fxd Int Inc	114.65	114.87	...	10.10
-do- Acc	131.95	132.21	...	...
CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
EQUITY & LAW St George's Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1QD. 0203 553231				
UK Growth Acc	254.00	270.30	- 0.50	3.62
-do- Inc	188.20	200.30	- 0.40	3.62
Higher Inc Acc	438.50	466.50	- 1.50	5.23
-do- Inc	283.70	301.90	- 1.00	5.23
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	142.30	149.80	...	8.72
-do- Inc	81.93	86.25	+ 0.01	8.72
Nth American	164.60	175.10	- 4.30	...
Far East	216.30	230.20	- 2.60	0.33
Europe	191.60	203.90	- 1.40	...
General Inc	341.50	362.50	- 1.50	3.58
-do- Acc	360.30	382.50	- 1.50	3.58
Brit Excell	52.83	56.21	- 0.05	3.41
Brit Prdcts Inc	54.03	57.48	- 0.12	6.24
Brit Prdcts Acc	65.32	69.49	- 0.14	6.24
Global Opps	54.41	57.89	- 0.63	0.04
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181				
America	154.20	163.00	- 2.70	...
Cash Unit Tst	134.12	134.12	+ 0.03	10.65
European Inc	91.97	98.97	- 0.23	...
FOREIGN & COLONIAL 8th Floor, Exchange Hse, Primrose St, London EC2A 2NY. 071 628 8000				
European Inc	78.32	83.03	- 0.44	3.73
Far Eastern	109.90	117.20	- 1.20	...
Overs Income	68.60	73.17	- 0.25	3.28
UK Growth	67.29	71.97	- 0.34	1.78
UK Income	91.55	97.91	- 0.43	6.64
US Smaller Cos	134.50	143.90	- 3.40	...
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT. 071 374 4100				
Am Smllr Co	283.70	308.10	- 10.00	...
-do- Acc	289.50	314.70	- 10.20	...
Capital	252.10	268.10	- 0.80	3.09
-do- Acc	339.00	360.50	- 1.10	3.09
Cont'l Smllr Cos	40.44	43.23	- 0.07	0.16
-do- Acc	41.12	43.95	- 0.08	0.16
Convertible	103.30	109.40	- 0.60	7.16
-do- Acc	174.20	184.60	- 1.10	7.16
European	85.26	91.02	- 0.37	0.68
-do- Acc	87.59	93.51	- 0.38	0.68
Extra Income	243.40	258.90	- 0.90	5.53
-do- Acc	320.80	341.20	- 1.30	5.53
Financial	62.16	66.12	- 0.27	0.93
-do- Acc	64.32	68.41	- 0.28	0.93
Health Fund Inc	98.25	105.50	- 2.10	...
-do- Acc	98.25	105.50	- 2.10	...
Income Tst	152.30	162.00	- 0.80	5.11
-do- Acc	201.60	214.40	- 1.10	5.11
Intl Growth	239.10	256.50	- 4.20	...
-do- Acc	265.50	284.80	- 4.70	...
Japan Gen	133.00	142.40	- 1.40	...
-do- Acc	134.30	143.80	- 1.50	...

COMMENT

Key meeting at Bundesbank

As sterling lingers at the bottom of the ERM range, the central council of the German Bundesbank will meet today to consider interest rates. A rise today is by no means certain. But if it did happen the impact on currency markets, especially sterling, would be strong.

Speculation has been intense this week, particularly after the Bank of France pushed up French rates to strengthen an increasingly vulnerable franc. Some interpreted this as a concerted Franco-German effort. Sterling was squeezed in response and fell sharply against the mark, before recovering slightly. But sterling remained within the theoretical narrow band margin of the exchange rate mechanism and well within its actual wider margin, perhaps because of Norman Lamont's assurances, that in order to defend sterling he would not hesitate to raise British rates. If German rates move today, Mr Lamont will be forced either to raise rates or eat his words.

Judging by recent events it would be odd for the Bundesbank to raise interest rates this week. There is no market pressure, since overnight market rates are presently at around 9 per cent, well below the 9.25 per cent Lombard emergency funding rate. The present strength of the mark against the dollar is another factor to support the view that rates are presently at a sufficiently high level.

There exists no compelling domestic arguments for a rise in the Lombard rate. In his recent interview with *The Times*, Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, said that small changes in market rates did not constitute a signal to wage setters and the economy at large. Signals are set through substantial changes in the base discount rate, as happened this summer. If Herr Schlesinger is to be believed, a rise in the lombard rate — which is at the centre of the speculation — cannot be defended as a signal to the domestic economy.

But then, the Bundesbank directorate is probably divided and the German central bank has proved itself to be adept at wrong-footing market speculators. So anything might happen. But another another dual push, involving a simultaneous rise in the Lombard and the discount rates, would carry severe consequences, not only for Germany. The impact on France would be even worse, although not nearly as damaging as they would be for Britain and for Mr Lamont in particular.

Drinks dismay

Regional brewers are increasingly outspoken about the impact of the 1989 Beer Orders on the brewing industry and the consolidation of power among the majors.

Their response to Brent Walker's supply agreement with Allied-Lyons is one of dismay. Financial details are sketchy but it seems reasonable to assume that Brent Walker will pay not a penny for 750 Allied public houses. Instead there is a seven-year agreement to purchase a fixed minimum barrelage of Allied ales and lagers and to share development profits.

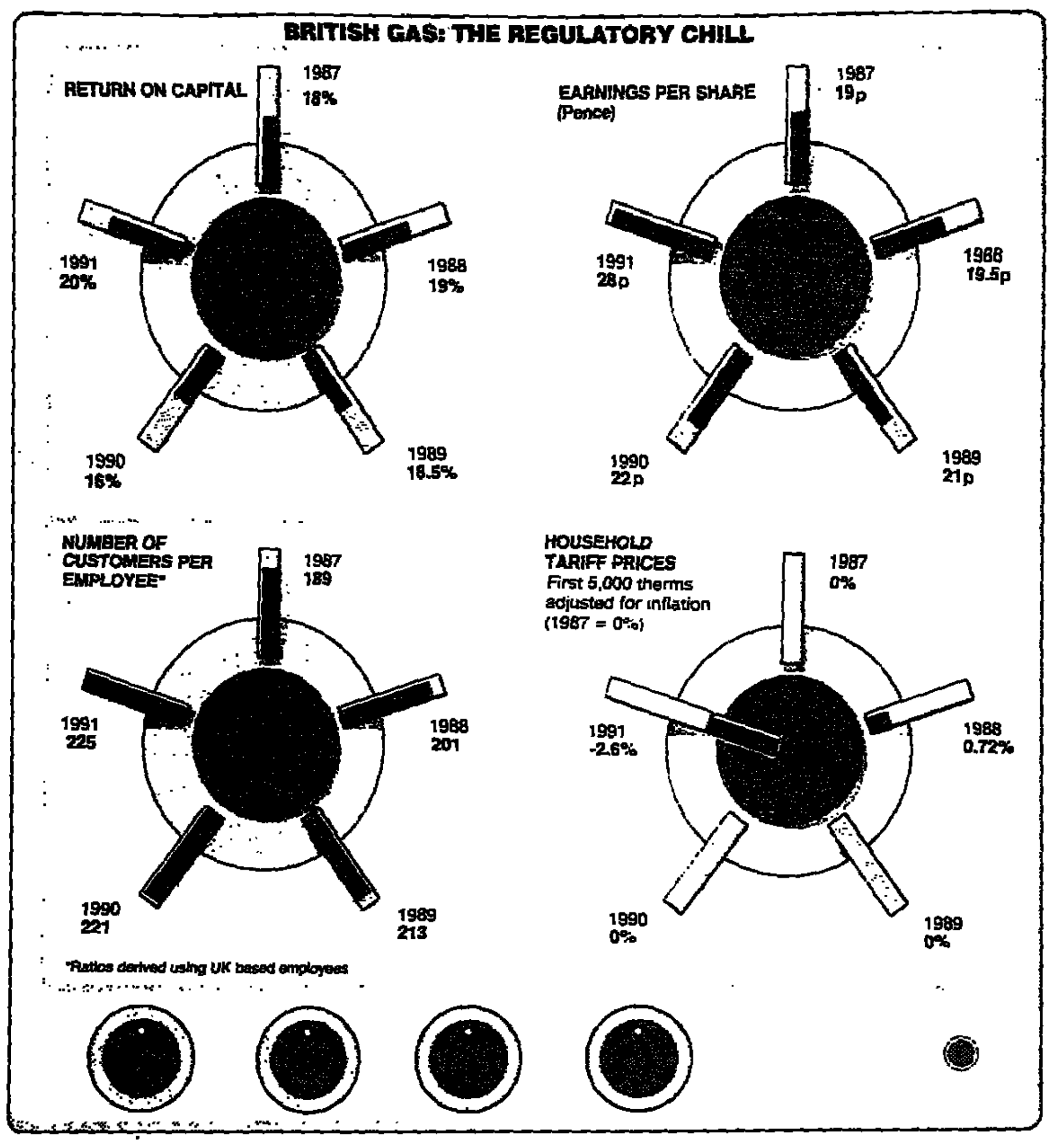
Both companies must persuade the monopolies commission that their agreement frees the pubs from Allied's tied estate but regional brewers, particularly in the Northeast and East Anglia where the pubs are located, are certain to cry foul.

The deal is clearly against the spirit, if not the wording, of the Beer Orders, which were intended to harness the power of the majors. Not for the first time the orders appear to be discouraging competition, not encouraging it.

Britain's top three brewers, including Allied, now speak for 62 per cent of the market, compared with 47 per cent before the monopolies commission intervened. Something has clearly gone disastrously wrong.

Competition drives Sid to review the beauty of Gas

The government's anti-monopoly policies are forcing British Gas to change shape, Ross Tieman writes



Robert Evans, the chairman of British Gas, will today present the fifth set of half-year results since the company was privatised in 1986. The pre-tax profit for the six months to September, a period in which the company does little more than cover its costs, will be unremarkable, perhaps no more than £25 million.

Mr Evans' word on dividend prospects will attract more attention, but such issues are a mere sideshow. British Gas, a company sold to Sid as a safe home for his savings, is fighting hard to survive in its present shape, with the company's aggressor none other than its vendor: the government.

Policies on privatisation, monopolies and competition have come a long way in the past five years. Early attitudes to privatisation appear, with hindsight, naïve. State assets were sold — for as much as they could command, minus a premium to encourage the punters — within a relatively benign regulatory framework.

The regulators, however, have grown teeth. The transfer of ownership, it transpires, was just the beginning of an evolutionary process. Competition, says the government, is preferable to regulation. No monopoly is natural. Where a monopoly exists, it must be opened up.

After a diffident start, the regulators have taken over the vanguard from the free-market theorists of the Adam Smith Institute. Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, has thrown the government's weight behind them.

When British Gas was initially privatised, government ambitions for competition were relatively modest. Independent gas suppliers would be allowed only to compete for the business of industrial and commercial users burning more than 25,000 therms a year. British Gas, however, misjudged the resolve of both James McKinnon, the director general of gas supply, and the government. When sufficient competition failed to emerge, the company was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which ordered it to publish tariffs and make gas supplies available to competitors. The commission also set deadlines for those rivals to achieve a decent market share.

Worse was to come. Mr McKinnon has engineered a crushing two-pronged assault on British Gas. When the company's five-year price restriction formula came up for review this year, he forced British Gas to concede to a much tougher price regime based on the retail prices index minus 5 per cent.

With lower inflation, consumers can look forward to real price reductions for the next five years. To achieve the objective, however, British Gas will be compelled to make ambitious cost savings.

The second regulatory assault is on the monopoly. An Office of Fair Trading report has proposed the separation of British Gas's transmission system into a distinct trading company, albeit still a British Gas subsidiary. The report also suggests a cut in the threshold of competition from 25,000 therms a year to just 5,000, as a prelude to the complete removal of monopoly rights before the end of the century.

British Gas is reduced to damage limitation. In talks with the OFT, Gil Hogg, the company's director of regulatory operations, is seeking to explain the impact of the proposals on British Gas, and establish how the government's competitive goals can be achieved with the least impact on the company.

The transmission system is the core of the company's business. Gas is a relatively cheap fuel. Most of the cost borne by the domestic consumer is incurred in transporting gas from the North Sea to the meter in the hallway.

Is the OFT prepared to allow customers to be charged more if they live further from the well head, even though that might push some customers' bills higher?

Security of supply, and obligation to supply, will also be key issues. Demand for gas varies hugely according to season and the time of day. British Gas has to interrupt supplies to some big industrial users during periods of high domestic demand. It also uses onshore storage and pressure variation in the pipeline system. The company fears that a reduction in its market share will make it difficult to ensure that supplies are maintained.

For all its faults, British Gas is credited with the development of a reliable system of gas supply, with some of the lowest domestic charges in Europe, which has earned an increased share of the energy market. Under pressure from Mr McKinnon, it has also become noticeably more user-friendly.

Mr McKinnon, however, insists that without further regulatory tightening, the profitability of the business threatens to become excessive. He has, in effect, introduced regulation of the transmission business based on a target rate of return. He has imposed demanding efficiency targets, and placed British Gas under pressure to surrender market share.

Scope to expand the market is limited. According to one estimate, 85 per cent of owner-occupied homes in Britain already have gas-fired central heating, the biggest source of domestic consumption. Both pressure and opportunities for household energy efficiency savings are growing. The prospects for further profit growth from the company's supply business therefore look limited.

To counteract this, British Gas has been trying energetically to expand in areas free from Mr McKinnon's attention. The company has bought distribution interests in Canada and Germany, but opportunities are scarce.

Simultaneously, the company has set out to build a global exploration and production arm that can equal its British supply business in returns by the year 2000. Profits at British Gas will not collapse overnight. Mr McKinnon has pledged that the supply business will be ensured appropriate levels of profitability.

However, exploration and production is a hazardous business, and one in which British Gas lacks management expertise. That, combined with the tightening regulatory noose, suggests it may be time for Sid to put his savings elsewhere.

EC holds the key to unlock our postbox

Government hopes for greater competition in mail services look now as though they rest on the very agency which is causing the government so many political difficulties in other areas: Europe.

Because of pressure on the parliamentary timetable before the general election, Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, has had to postpone his intention — declared in the prime minister's citizen's charter — to bring in new laws to increase competition in postal services in Britain, and to introduce additional postal regulatory arrangements in line with those operating in gas, telecommunications, water and electricity.

Much of the driving force for greater competition is now coming from the Post Office itself, rather than the trade and industry department — which hardly fits what has been seen as the traditional relationship between a nationalised industry and its sponsoring department.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the PO's chairman who has a keenness for competition, went even further yesterday, arguing to journalists that the government should emulate steps recently taken in The Netherlands and free the Post Office in Britain entirely from the constraints of government financing, and allow it to operate on a wholly commercial basis: no more being part of the PSBR, no more having to clear prices with government.

He warned, too, that though Germany is one of the European Community countries which has been most set against increased postal competition, along with France, that was only because Germany is not yet ready for it. In a decade's time or less, Germany's national postal arrangements might be as loose as those of Holland, which could seriously jeopardise the British post office's ambitions to use its current combination of low cost and high service quality to become the principal international mail service in the world.

After at least 18 months delay, a green paper on postal competition, long-awaited by postal services across Europe, looks finally likely to emerge soon from Brussels. After a protracted struggle between the European Commission's DG13 (energy) and Sir Leon Brittan's DG4 (competition), the green paper seems certain to favour increased competition, though with the retention of individual member states' reserve monopolies — their core mail businesses.

Not much of this will have much of an impact on an individual popping out to post a letter. But for business users, the long-term changes in the law it implies, and the steps Britain's post office is taking to boost its international business, may well combine to offer cost improvements. When postal costs improve, all businesses benefit; and though the government may have balked at increasing postal competition, the EC looks set to ride to the rescue.

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

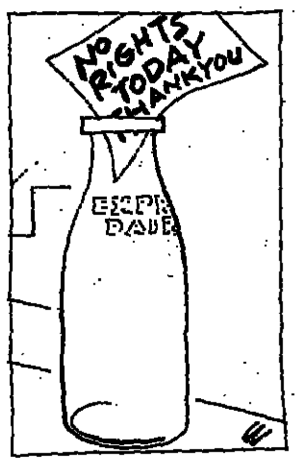
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fine . . . with storms ahead

SPARKS are set to fly over the City comeback of Ray Fine, the polo-playing advertising star who tried — and failed — to take over Lopex, the advertising and marketing services group, almost exactly a year ago. Fine, aged 30, who gave up any claim to £14 million in deferred payments when he quit RCF Marketing Group, a subsidiary of Lopex, has launched Finex Communications Group, a privately owned acquisition vehicle. He has £3 million to spare, but his activities have angered Lopex, which claims he is in breach of a restrictive covenant. "They had threatened to issue writs if I went back into business," says Fine, who has his eye on "young and aggressive" companies. Aside from the 14 ponies on his 78-acre Sussex farm, he owns four Porsches and travels frequently to Australia, where he has a stake in a hotel complex in Cairns, Queensland.

Fairer wind

AT last something is going right for Lloyd's of London. For the first time in 11 years, the insurance market has triumphed over the Stock Exchange to win the City of London sailing trophy. Richard "Rockie" Hudson, an oil and gas broker at C E Heath, led his team to victory in the dinghy challenge at Wraysbury Lake near Staines over the weekend, beating the Stock Exchange sailing association and the Midland, National Westminster and Lloyds Bank sailing clubs. The Stock Exchange has held the trophy since 1980. "It's been well removed, never to be given back, I hope," says Hudson, aged 28, who has represented England in Enterprise class dinghy championships in Hong Kong and Bombay. While in India, he had a curse placed upon him by an irate snake charmer, but appears none the worse for it.



English sign in an Athens tailor's shop: "Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation."

High flyer

THE sky is no longer the limit for Serco, the task management contractor which counts Marks and Spencer, British Aerospace and the Ministry of Defence among its customers. Guests at a reception at the Royal Aeronautical Society in London last night were suitably impressed when Don Hardy, chairman of Serco Space, announced that Helen Sharman, the British astronaut, was joining as a consultant. "We are delighted," says Hardy, who adds that Sharman, who made her maiden voyage into space in May, has a lot to say about climatic monitoring. Serco's £9.7 million rights issue closes today.

Running rings

NORMAN Lamont knew he was on to a winner when he declared war on Britain's mobile telephone users in the Budget. For Britain has as many mobile phones in circulation as Germany, France, Finland and Norway together. A study by Euromonitor, the market research publisher, found 1.26 million phones in use in the UK compared with 254,000 in Germany, the second largest user. With Maastricht looming, it may interest John Major to know that Britons buy more pet food, eat more chocolate and work through more bars of soap than any other country in Europe. We each used 1.2 kilograms of soap last year — 70 per cent more than the EC average.

Self-recycling food

THE perils of entertaining clients are boundless. A managing director of an American commercial bank was asked to dinner by a Japanese client in Singapore. Shown to a table overlooking the water, she decided to order a dish of lobster *Sashimi*, a dish in which the unfortunate creatures are deshelled, sliced up and served raw. The meal arrived with the lobster still firmly in its shell, but the banker had no chance to enjoy it. She glanced down at her plate — just in time to see the lobster scuttling off the balcony and into the water below. "The Japanese wasn't embarrassed at all," she says.

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

How self-indulgence ruins Britain's economic health

From Mr Charles Carr

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky rightly stresses that, in spite of ERM, the gap in producer prices between Britain and Germany has shown little sign of narrowing. But his proposed remedy is flawed.

Past experience has demonstrated that devaluation merely provides a temporary respite, and inexorably leads to higher inflation. If it were a cure, South America would be a haven of prosperity.

One of the causes of the gap in producer inflation is the ingrained habit of all classes in society of paying themselves more than the economy can afford.

Trade Unions and company directors attract most publicity, but the learned and not so learned professions are equally culpable. For more than 40 years successive governments have tried to cure this disease, without conspicuous success.

As Kaletsky points out, the *collapse* of uncompetitive British firms will produce high unemployment and "put a downward pressure on British prices", i.e. curb wage claims and profits. Rather than wait to be overwhelmed by forces outside our control, it is surely preferable to exert this pressure by policies aimed at stabilising prices.

Certainly the slow pace of convergence is disappointing, but it will take time to dissipate the hangover left by 40 years of indulgence.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES CARR,
Brockhurst,
The Grange,
St Pierre Port,
Guernsey,
Channel Islands.

False comparison with past slumps

From Mr J. Shackles

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky (November 20) makes the same mistake as many commentators on the timing of the end of the current recession. Comparisons with those of the early 70s and 80s are misplaced. Previous recessions were never preceded by such high levels of consumer activity, coupled with such slack lending practices.

The ill discipline of both borrower and lender in the 80s has resulted in unprecedented levels of consumer/corporate debt and record levels of bad debts/provisions and liquidity problems for the banks, against a backdrop of declining asset values, both property and equity (witness the latest stock market falls). Customers and bankers are retreating to defensive positions as evidenced by falling money supply figures confirming that the consumer no longer has the confidence to borrow and the bank no longer the desire to lend.

All charts should be discarded except for one displaying joint borrower/lender confidence. Until this shows a positive trend, Mr Lamont's faith will need to be as strong as that of Mr Terry Waite.

Yours faithfully,
J. SHACKLES,
2 Warren Close,
Rayleigh,
Essex.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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interim. Tough negotiations are expected on both issues.

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Portfolio

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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Amersham	Chems,Plas	
2	NFC	Transport	
3	Courtaulds	Industrial	
4	BPB Ind	Building,Rds	
5	Jardine Math	Industrial	
6	EMAP	Newspapr,Pub	
7	MTM	Chems,Plas	
8	Volex	Electrical	
9	Sherwd Cmp	Electrical	
10	BTR	Industrial	
11	Lonrho	Industrial	
12	Hepworth	Industrial	
13	Coats Viyella	Drapery,Strs	
14	Alumasc	Industrial	
15	Gestetner	Industrial	
16	Wyko	Industrial	
17	Reckitt Colm	Industrial	
18	Bk Of Ireland	Banks,Disc	
19	Cookson	Industrial	
20	Rentokil	Chems,Plas	
21	Smurfit (Jeff)	Paper,Print	
22	Allied Irish	Banks,Disc	
23	Davies Newman	Transport	
24	Crown Eye	Drapery,Strs	
25	Vosper Thorny	Industrial	
26	Enterprise	Oils, Gas	
27	St Ives Gp	Paper,Print	
28	MB-Caradon	Industrial	
29	News Corp	Newspapr,Pub	
30	Marks Spencer	Drapery,Strs	
31	Reed Int	Newspapr,Pub	
32	Transport Dev	Transport	
33	Yorkshire W	Water	
34	Burmah Castrl	Oils, Gas	
35	Meyer Int	Building,Rds	
36	Lloyds	Banks,Disc	
37	CRH	Building,Rds	
38	Close Bros	Banks,Disc	
39	Powell Duffryn	Transport	
40	Tarmac	Building,Rds	
41	Rolls-Royce	Motors,Air	
42	Utd Newspapers	Newspapr,Pub	
43	First Leisure	Leisure	
44	Blacks Leis	Drapery,Strs	
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON.	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr A. Polatajko, of Woking, Surrey.

Confidence remains weak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 11. Dealings end tomorrow. §Contango day November 25. Settlement day December 2. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
494	358	Meyer Int	433	+ 7	16.5	5.1	21.4
17	12	Midlnd Gp♦	15	...	...	...	...
356	210	Mowlem (J)	228	+ 1	...	12.3	18.0
44	12	NSM	17	...	0.5	3.9	...
177	112	Newman Tnks	156	...	9.3	7.9	14.0
304	187	Persimmon	267	...	...	4.3	13.2
55	16	Phoenix Timber	21	...	0.5	3.2	...
1200	875	Portals	1150	+12	24.0	2.8	8.5
201	158	Prowting	171 †	...	5.0	3.9	15.1
46	25	Quiligotti♦	33	...	1.5	6.2	11.2
749	512	RMC Gp	513	- 2	19.3	5.0	11.9
150	93	Raine Ind	133	...	6.0	6.0	12.2
76	50	Ramus♦	65	...	0.1	0.2	...
658	468	Redland	470	- 4	...	7.1	13.6
79	63	Rockel♦	66	...	4.3	8.7	7.0
205	135	Rugby Group	171	- 1	6.4	5.0	12.6
62	23	Sandell♦	33	...	1.7	...	...
68	38	Svdd-Rye♦	53	...	3.0	7.5	7.6
95	79	Sharpe & Fisher	81	...	4.0	6.6	18.6
161	103	Sheffield Ind	126	...	5.4	5.7	12.0
110	61	Sherif Hldgs♦	62	...	5.1	...	5.5
148	75	Shoreco♦	75	...	5.2	9.2	7.9
215	161	Smart (J)	215 †	...	7.9	4.9	∞
22	15¼	Starmin	16½	...	...	2.4	34.1
424	257	Steetley	280	- 5	14.0	6.7	14.5
283	138	Tarmac	140	+ 2	11.2	10.7	15.8
175	106	Tay Homes	166	...	5.3	4.3	6.6
289	151	Taylor Woodrw	151	- 2	9.5	8.4	14.2
725	508	Tilbury Dougls	607	...	33.0	7.2	9.0
41	28	Torrz Hlm♦	35	...	1.6	...	...
251	188	Travis Perkins	226	...	8.0	4.7	29.1
62	39	Try Group	53	...	6.0	15.1	5.7
33	22	Tudor♦	33	...	2.7	...	9.3
150	16	Turriff	27 #	...	4.2	20.9	...
10	3	Venture Plant♦	6½	...	...	...	...
123	66	Vibroplant	104	...	3.6	4.6	10.6
208	98	Ward Group	100	...	7.2	...	4.4
100	53	Ward Hldgs	55	...	2.6	6.3	11.6
428	368	Watts Blake	407	...	9.3	3.0	15.7
44	30	Westol♦	35	...	1.5	...	3.1
190	108	Westbury	110 †	...	...	10.0	...
52	18	West Scaffoldg♦	18	...	...	...	...
62	6	Wiggins	11	...	...	...	...
447	335½	Wilson Bowdn	406	- 1	...	2.7	13.9
211	162	Wilson (C)	178	...	3.7	2.8	16.0
229	145	Wimpey G	151	...	10.5	9.3	23.0
78	43	YRM	71	...	5.0	9.4	6.7

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
183	120	Allied Colloids	173	...	3.5	2.7	17.5
395	301	Amersham	378	+ 6	11.5	4.2	18.8
41½	28¾	Anglo Utd	33	+ 1	...	6.5	...
247	148	BTP	242	...	8.4	4.6	15.2
£100¼	7281	Bayer DM50	9775	-75	...	4.7	...
224	129	Blagden	219	- 1	9.5	5.8	12.1
160¾	116	Brent Chems	136 †	+ 1	...	7.3	15.0
128	42	Caird Gp	93	...	...	3.4	...
171	94	Canning (W)	165	...	7.2	5.9	19.8
203	146	Croda	159	+ 1	11.0	...	12.6
218	165	Ellis & Everard	198	+ 1	7.0	4.7	12.4
18	12	Euro Colour	13	- ½	0.6	6.7	16.6
124	43	Evode	63	...	6.4	13.6	10.9
379	202	Halstead (J)	378	...	11.2	4.0	10.5
200	95	Hickson	190	+ 2	8.0	5.6	18.3
9325	6793	Hoechst	7950	-50	...	7.3	...
1361	945	ICI	1209	+14	55.0	6.1	21.7
607	435	Laporte	584	+ 5	17.8	4.1	14.1
351	260	Leigh	260	- 2	7.8	4.0	15.4
265	136	MTM	249	+ 2	5.1	2.7	14.7
1818	1287	Norsk Hydro	1287	-25	...	2.9	13.7
400	312	Pearson Zoch	390	...	10.4	3.6	11.9
390	306	-do- 'A'	382	...	10.4	3.6	11.7
239	111	Plysu	239	+ 1	4.5	2.5	21.3
143	73	Porvair♦	143	...	3.0	2.8	13.2
396	203	Rentokil	334	+ 6	3.3	1.3	27.3
17	12	Sutcliffe Speak	12½	...	...	...	...
364	204	Wardle Storeys	360	...	16.0	6.1	16.1
20	12	Wentworth♦	17	...	0.1	0.8	...
290	215	Wolstnhlme R	285	...	16.3	7.6	12.5
553	327	Yorks Chem	547	...	13.5	3.3	15.2
227	89	Yule Catto	223	...	4.7	2.8	14.7

DRAPERY, STORES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
142	20	Alan Paul♦	20 #	...	...	22.7	1.4
445	267	Alexon	419	...	...	5.6	8.6
126	58¼	Amber Day	126	...	2.7	2.9	∞
339	239	Argos Plc	311	+ 3	6.0	2.6	20.5
106	52	Ashley (Laura)	99	...	0.1	0.1	...
338	255	Asprey♦	295	...	4.8	2.2	15.6
385	350	Austin Reed	360	...	9.5	3.5	57.8
150	125	Beattie (J) 'A'	148	...	5.5	5.0	12.4
195	150	Bentalls	155	...	3.8	3.3	32.2
226	73	Bur CP♦	216	...	...	1.4	24.3
119	36½	Blacks Leis	117 †	+ 3	...	3.7	10.7
350	178	Body Shop	345	- 1	1.2	0.5	46.3
38½	5	Brown & Jackson	5½	...	1.9	...	1.3
289	183	Brown (N)	285 †	...	...	2.6	19.9
94½	30	Burton	44	+ 1	2.7	8.4	...
188	113	Cantors 'A'	178	...	4.0	3.0	11.0
355	275	Church	313	...	12.5	5.3	15.3
193	99	Coats Viyella	176 †	+ 4	7.0	5.3	20.4
165	109	Colourview♦	117	...	5.6	6.4	10.4
336	154	Courts Furnish	334	...	5.0	2.0	13.0
220	92	Crown Eye♦	209	+ 3	3.5	2.2	11.6
32	17½	Dewhirst (IJ)	28½	- ½	...	3.0	13.0
274	125	Dixons Grp	228	- 1	5.9	3.4	20.1
520	283	Dunhill	450	...	7.0	2.1	16.2
37	11	ERA Gp	34	+ 1	...	...	15.0
900	695	Elys (Wimbldn)	750	...	16.0	2.7	5.6
245	57	Etam	231	...	5.5	3.4	23.9
19	9½	Fields (Mrs)♦	10 #	...	...	...	...
350	212	Fine Art Dev	309	...	9.5	3.5	15.5
95	60	Fired Earth Tiles	85	...	4.0	6.3	16.3

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
15	10	Oceonics	12	...	...	...	16.2
279	227	Oxford Inst	228	...	4.1	2.4	14.7
195	128	P-E Intern'l	170	...	6.2	4.9	13.4
147	50	P & P	54	...	4.2	10.5	2.9
71	43	Peek	61 †	...	3.4	7.4	14.8
201	145	Pegasus♦	173	...	12.1	9.8	∞
8500	6300	Philips Fn 4%	8500	...	...	6.8	...
1131	587	-do- Lmp nv	1037	...	...	...	...
365	227	Pilko	325	...	7.7	3.2	10.1
357	194	-do- 'A' Voting	300	...	7.7	3.4	9.3
71	48	Plessmec♦	50	...	3.6	...	46.1
111	78	Prosac	80	...	2.4	4.0	12.9
118	40	Pulsn♦	118	+18	2.4	2.7	...
60	46	Racal Elect	54½	+ 1½	3.7	9.1	5.9
58	37	Radius♦	39	...	2.7	9.2	7.9
123	45	Real Time♦	108	+ 1	3.0	3.7	9.9
53	28	Riva♦	33	...	...	...	18.5
290	180	Sage Gp	285	+ 1	...	3.3	15.3
90	41	Scantronic	47	- 1	2.9	8.6	47.1
135	78	Scholes Grp	118	...	5.0	5.6	12.8
499	237	Sema Gp	237	...	2.5	1.4	22.2

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
64½	55¼	Babcock	60½	...	3.0	6.8	9.7
8¼	4¼	Bailey (CH)	6½	...	...	...	...
274	204	Baird (Wm)	247	+ 1	...	4.9	13.0
983	518	Barlow Rand	980	+27	...	3.5	∞
113	38	Barrett (H)	45	...	5.6	16.7	4.1
69	32½	Baynes (Charles)	65	...	...	2.5	18.0
149	59	Beauford	61	...	6.0	13.3	4.0
48	14	Beckenham♦	14	...	3.0	...	3.3
30	23	Bedford (W)♦	28	...	...	...	...
533	292	Bespak	531	+ 1	8.0	2.0	23.4
183	106	Bibby (J)	179 †	...	9.7	7.3	∞
100	80	Billam (J)	86	...	4.0	6.3	7.3
86	37	Birmec Ind	73½	+ 2	...	2.7	14.1
147½	44	Bioplan	44	...	...	0.2	...
41	23	Black Arrow	38	...	2.1	7.4	12.4
140	108	Black (Peter)	130	...	2.8	2.9	14.2
66	26	Bluebird Toys♦	38	...	...	...	...
370	211	Bodycote	367	...	8.7	3.2	13.3
445	304	Boots	435	+ 1	11.6	3.6	17.4
92	60	Booth Inds	84	- 3	3.2	5.1	5.4

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
80½	55¼	Porter Chadbn	63	...	...	5.1	8.8
50½	14	Posth Gp♦	15	...	...	...	...
231	125	Powerscreen	217 †	...	5.5	3.4	12.7
17½	3¼	Prospect Inds	17	...	0.2	1.6	28.6
426	262	[illegible]	390	...	19.0	6.5	8.4
7½	4¼	RMT Gp♦	4½#	...	...	...	...
130	57	RPS Group♦	57	...	3.2	7.5	6.0
110	70	Radiant Metal	103	...	...	...	...
76	45	Ramco Oil♦	72	+ 2	2.0	3.7	26.7
779	562	Rank Org	644	+ 4	31.0	6.4	16.3
111	40	Ransomes	47	...	6.1	...	...
741	485½	Reckitt Colm	665	+ 6	13.6	2.7	15.3
14½	10	Reece	10½	...	...	1.2	19.3
74	34	Reed Executive	74	...	0.6	1.1	...
289	147	Reliance Sec♦	272	...	8.4	4.1	14.0
147	117	Relyon	129	...	4.9	1.1	13.3
325	222	Renishaw	297	...	6.0	2.7	18.3
78	49½	Renold	60	...	3.7	...	14.6
1003	673	Reuters	870	+ 9	15.0	2.3	17.8
34½	25	Rexmore	32½	...	2.2	9.4	7.9

Portfolio

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STOCK MARKET

Speculation over £500m cash call sends C&W shares down 22p

SHARES in **Cable and Wireless** tumbled 22p to 513p in late trading as whispers circulated in the Square Mile that today's interim figures would coincide with a call to shareholders for £500 million. This week Optus Communications, in which C&W holds a 25 per cent stake, won the licence for Australia's second telephone company.

City analysts estimate that the deal will require an investment of $Aus2 billion (£881 million) during the next five years for it to compete directly with the state-owned operator. Optus has also paid £351 million for the government-owned Aussat regional satellite communications company.

However, some brokers claim that the speculators may have got a crossed line about a possible C&W rights issue. The interim figures are unlikely to make pleasant reading and there was evidence to suggest that the company's own broker, Cazenove, had been selling stock on behalf of its clients yesterday. Cazenove would certainly not be allowed to sell shares before a rights issue.

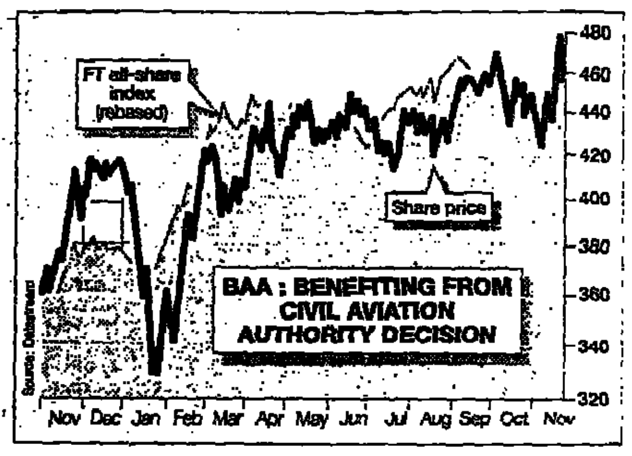
The rest of the equity market staged a half-hearted rally despite another 41-point fall overnight on Wall Street. It was helped by a better performance from the pound which seems to have erased any remaining fears about a rise in base rates. Prices still closed below their best of the day.

In thin trading, which saw only 481 million shares change hands, the FT-SE 100 index more than halved earlier gains to finish only 9.5 ahead at 2,472.6. Government securities closed with losses of £¼ at the longer end before today's meeting of the Bundesbank that could result in higher German interest rates.

Hawker Siddeley firmed 1p to 720p as 3 million shares were traded. BTR's £1.55 billion bid is due to close tomorrow. BTR now speaks for 24.4 per cent of Hawker but there has not been the rush of sellers taking advantage of the cash alternative and immediate settlement that had been forecast after the higher offer. Mercury Asset Management is said to be poised to accept BTR's terms but the rest of the institutions do not look as though they will make up their minds until the last minute. **BTR** firmed 2p to 381p.

Maxwell Communication Corporation continued to plumb fresh depths with a fall of 10p to 36p as fears grew about the group's complicated debt structure. The Swiss Bank Corporation is reported to be threatening to put one of the Maxwell private companies into receivership if it does not repay a £60 million loan, which, it claims, is now in default. Almost 4.5 million shares were traded.

Mirror Group Newspapers, where Maxwell owns a 51 per cent stake, touched 127p before settling 12p up at 126p. There is speculation that Maxwell may eventually be forced to sell off its holding. Kerry Packer, the Australian businessman, is being tipped in some City circles as a buyer.



BAA : BENEFITING FROM CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY DECISION

BAA, the independent airports operator, continued to make headway, climbing 7p to a high of 485p. Investors have been encouraged by the details of the Civil Aviation Authority's new pricing formula for traffic charges, which analysts regard as generous. This latest surge in the share price has occurred despite Monday's news of a 26 per cent downturn in half-year profits. **British Airways** fell 5p to 210p as Kleinwort Benson, the broker, urged its clients to switch from BA to BAA.

Northern Foods touched 485p before rallying to close 19p higher on the day at 526p after surprising the market with a heavily discounted £227 million cash call to help finance the acquisition of Express Dairies and Eden Vale from Grand Metropolitan. The terms are one-for-four at 415p. The sale of Express is just one of a series of planned disposals by **GrandMet**, which finished 1p cheaper at 825p.

Elsewhere in the drinks sector, **Whitbread A** rose 5p to 437p despite reporting a 7 per cent downturn in first-half pre-tax profits at £142.5 million. The setback was the first for 16 years but the figures were at the top end of City forecasts. The company blamed poor beer sales and property write-offs.

Ranks Hovis McDougall advanced 7p to 244p helped by a by a rise in interim pre-tax profits from £131 million to £150.2 million.

Losses are continuing to mount at **Commercial Union** because of the recession and higher insurance claims with the group reporting a third-quarter pre-tax loss of £42.4 million. The shares responded with a fall of 4p to 464p. The rest of the insurers were mixed with **General Accident** down 4p at 451p, while **Guardian Royal Exchange** firmed 1p to 139p, **Royal Insurance** 9p to 283p, and **Sun Alliance** held steady at 314p.

Courtaulds, the specialist chemicals group, firmed 2p to 475p after weighing in with an 11 per cent first-half improvement in pre-tax profits to £96.4 million. Trading conditions remain difficult but the group has managed to increase trading margins. Courtaulds has also agreed a merger of its yarn operations with those of the Italian group, Snia, a subsidiary of Fiat.

Racal Electronics held steady at 53p despite the threat from Peter Lilley, the trade minister, to refer Williams Holdings' near £700 million bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. **Williams**, 6p lower at 318p, must agree to certain undertakings.

Torday & Carlisle, the engineer, was unmoved at 103p compared with the terms of 111p a share from Dowding & Mills. The bid, valuing the company at £17 million is due to close tomorrow. Torday is the subject of several long-term buy recommendations from various brokers and enjoys strong institutional support. However, Framlington, the fund manager, with 12 per cent of the shares, has agreed to accept the offer.

Willis Corroon, the insurance broker, tumbled 15p to 239p despite a rise in nine-month profits. The group has given warning that the full-year figures will include a provision for the disposal and closure of its underwriting operation in this country. Analysts have now begun downgrading their full-year estimates. They had been looking for pre-tax profits to grow from £81.7 million to £110 million.

There was further bad news for shareholders in **Lep**, the troubled transport and storage group, as the price fell 4p to a low of 14p. John Read, the chairman, is resigning. Deputy chairman Peter Grant will take over the running of the company with the assistance of a management committee. **ADT**, which owns 27 per cent of Lep, firmed 2p to 395p.

British Thornton, the educational and scientific furniture manufacturer, was unchanged at 11p. Only 8.46 per cent of the group's seven-for-five rights issue at 10p to raise £2.57 million has been taken up.

The banks scored modest gains after recent weakness. **National Westminster Bank** touched 312p, before settling only 3p dearer at 309p after Shearson Lehman raised its profit forecast. **Barclays** rose 1p to 386p and **Lloyds** 3p to 387p, but **Midland** slipped 4p to 218p.

MICHAEL CLARK

Kleinwort Benson, the broker, says that the City's confidence in Iceland, the frozen foods retailer, is being revived. The company is sustaining its excellent sales growth and Kleinwort is *confident of further outperformance by the shares, which it rates* as a long-term buy. Iceland closed unchanged at 404p.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
British Land	280p (+9p)
MEPC	453p (+12p)
Eurotunnel Units	393p (+11p)
Royal	291p (+17p)
British Gas	251p (+8½p)
Reuters	870p (+9p)
Wellcome	879p (+10p)
Glaxo	795p (+9p)
Northern Foods	526p (+19p)
Sothebys	675p (+12p)
FALLS:	
Simon Eng	247p (−11p)
Cable & Wireless	513p (−22p)
Tomkins	387p (−9p)
Honda Motor	630p (−9p)
Hambros	260p (−12p)
MAM	890p (−8p)
General Accident	445p (−10p)
A Cohen	413p (−12p)
Broken Hill	635p (−12p)
Maxwell Comm	36p (−10p)

Closing Prices...Page 30

RECENT ISSUES

Baillie Gifford Japan Warrants	130	...
Bute Mining Warrants	2½	...
Capital Ventures 1p	83	...
Culver 1p (4)	4½	...
Drayton Recovery Trust (100)	95	...
Dumas Group 10p (25)	26	...
English & Scottish Warrants	17	−1
Eurotunnel SA 1991 Warrants	213	+13
Fidelity Euro Values Uts (500)	474	...
Frost Group (235)	273	+2
JIB Group 10p (195)	207	+1
Latin American Extra Yld (587)	564	...
M & G Income Inv Cap 1p (28)	18¾	...
M & G Income Inv Geared Units	62½	+1
M & G Income Inv Inc 1p (44)	44	...
M & G Inc Inv Package Uts (100)	97½	+½
Morgan Grenfell Equity Ut (500)	504	+1
Simpsons of Cornhill 5p (50)	44	...
Wills Group Warrants	2½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Anglo Eastern Plant N/P (33)	5	−1
Brent Chemicals 10p N/P (120)	16	+1½
Brit Thornton 5p N/P (10)	¼	...
De La Rue N/P (350)	96	−2
Euro Motor 40p N/P (100)	13½	−1½
Lowe (Robert H.) 1p N/P (10)	1	−½
Molynx 20p N/P (88)	4	+1
More O'Ferrall 10p N/P (215)	37	+1
PCT Group 10p N/P (125)	10	...
SelecTV 1p N/P (17)	2	...
Sims Food 5p N/P (282)	30	...

WALL STREET

Dow rises in early trading

New York – Blue chips lost some of their opening gains in morning trading but they remained firm on the buying that followed a late recovery on Tuesday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 6.43 to 2,938. Rising shares outnumbered falls by six to five.

☐ *Hong Kong* – Prices closed steeply lower on diminished volume as investors reacted cautiously to the possibility of a continued plunge on Wall Street. The Hang Seng index tumbled 60.29 points, or 1.41 per cent, to 4,200.94, while turnover dropped to HK$1.56 billion (£112 million) from HK$2 billion on Tuesday. The market closed at a record of 4,271.34 on Friday.

☐ **Singapore** – Prices recouped early losses to close firmer on bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrial index rose 3.20 points to 1,443.15 after falling to 1,419.91 in the morning in line with Wall Street's overnight losses and a weak Tokyo market.

☐ **Sydney** – The market closed sharply lower, but above its lows, as profit-taking trimmed prices in most sectors. The all-ordinaries index fell 24.3 points to 1,632.5.

(Reuter)

	Nov 20 midday	Nov 19 close		Nov 20 midday	Nov 19 close		Nov 20 midday	Nov 19 close
AMP Inc	51½	52½	Emerson Elec	47⅝	47½	Oryx Energy Co	27	27¼
AMR Corp	59¾	58¾	Enron Corp	72¼	71½	PNC Financial	43¼	43⅛
Abbott Labs	55⅝	55⅞	Entergy Corp	28⅛	27½	PPG Industries	46⅜	46¼
Aetna Life	35	37¼	Ethyl Corp	25⅞	25½	Paccar Inc	47¼	46½
Ahmanson (HF)	14¼	14¾	Exxon	59	59	Pacificorp	22¼	22⅛
Air Prod & Chem	67¼	66⅜	FMC Corp	46⅛	47	Pac Enterprises	24½	24¼
Albertson's	36⅝	36¼	FPL Group	34½	34¼	Pac Gas & Elec	29½	29¼
Alcan Aluminium	20⅛	20¼	Federal Express	37¼	37	Pac Telesis	41	40⅝
Alco Standard	33	33¼	Fed Nat Mtge	56⅝	55½	Pall Corp	35⅛	35½
Allied Signal	40	40⅛	First Chicago	24⅝	24¼	Panhandle East	14¼	14⅝
Alum Co of Am	56½	57	First Interstate	30⅛	29½	Paramnt Comm	38⅛	38⅝
Amax	19¼	19¼	First Union Rlty	6⅝	6⅝	Parker Hannifin	29¼	29⅝
Amerada Hess	52¾	51½	FleetNorstar	22	21¼	Penney (JC)	51⅝	50⅝
Amer Brands	38⅝	39	Fluor Corp	37	36⅞	Pennzoil	58¼	58⅝
Amer Cyanamid	56¼	56½	Ford Motor	24⅝	25½	Pepsico	28⅛	29
Amer El Power	30⅛	30¼	GTE Corp	31⅝	31½	Pfizer	68	68
Amer Express	16⅞	18⅛	Gannett	37⅝	36¼	Phelps Dodge	70⅝	69½
Amer Genl Corp	40⅝	39¼	Gap Inc Del	51⅛	51½	Philadel Elec	23¼	23½
Amer Home Pr	72½	73¼	Gen Cinema	19¼	19⅛	Philip Morris	68⅝	68¼
Amer Intl	83¼	84	Gen Dynamics	49⅝	49	Phillips Pet	24½	24½
Amer Stores	29½	29⅝	Gen Electric	67½	66⅝	Pitney Bowes	57⅝	57⅝
Amer T & T	36⅛	35½	Gen Mills	66	66½	Polaroid	26⅛	26
Ameritech	60⅝	60½	Gen Motors	31	31½	Price Co	55¼	55¼
Amoco	49¼	49½	Gen Reinsurance	90½	91¼	Primerica	34⅛	34⅝
Anheuser-Busch	53	53⅝	Gen Signal	49¼	49⅝	Procter & Gmbl	81½	81⅝
Apple Computer	50⅝	51¼	Genuine Parts	42⅝	42⅝	Pub Serv E & G	27½	27⅛
Archer Daniels	27⅜	27¼	Georgia Pac	47¼	47⅞	Quaker Oats	66	65¼
Arkla	15⅝	15⅝	Gillette	42½	42½	Ralston Purina	52¼	51⅝
Armco	4⅞	4⅞	Goodrich (BF)	39⅞	39⅝	Raychem Corp	31½	32¼
Armstrong Wrld	29¼	29⅝	Goodyear Tire	47½	47	Raytheon	79	79⅛
Asarco	23¼	23¼	Grace (W&R)	38½	38¼	Reebok Intl	27½	28⅝
Ashland Oil	29	28⅛	Grt Atl Pac Tea	27⅝	27	Reynolds Metals	51¼	50⅞
Atl Richfield	111½	111⅝	Great Wstn Fin	15¼	15¼	Roadway Srvs	54⅞	55¼
Auto Data Pro	37½	37	Halliburton	32⅝	32⅝	Rockwell Intl	25½	25¼
Avery Dennison	21⅜	22	Heinz (HJ)	37⅛	38	Rohm & Haas	39¼	39⅝
Avon Products	37¼	38⅝	Hercules	41½	41⅝	Royal Dutch	80⅝	81
Baker Hughes	20⅝	20⅝	Hershey Foods	37¼	40¼	Rubbermaid	60½	60
Baltim Gas & El	32¾	32¼	Hewlett Packard	47⅝	47⅝	Safeco Corp	41⅝	41¼
Banc One	43¼	44⅝	Hilton Hotels	39⅛	39⅝	Salomon Inc	28⅝	28⅝
BankAmerica	36	35½	Home Depot	55½	58	Santa Fe S Pac	10½	10⅞
Bank of NY	30	30	Homestake	15⅛	16¼	Sara Lee Corp	47½	47¼
Bankers Tr NY	62½	62	Honeywell	56⅝	58¼	Seacorp	44⅛	44¼
Barnett Bks Fl	31	30⅝	Household Intl	44⅝	44	Schering Plough	60½	60⅝
Bausch & Lomb	50⅛	50½	Houston Inds	39½	39¼	Schlumberger	64¼	64⅝
Baxter Intl	36⅛	36⅛	Humana	23½	23½	Scott Paper	33⅝	33⅝
Becton Dickinson	62⅝	63½	ITT Corp	54	53⅞	Seagram	113⅝	114⅝
Bell Atlantic	45⅛	45½	Illinois Tool	61⅝	61½	Sears Roebuck	36½	36½
BellSouth	47¼	46⅞	INCO	31¼	31¼	Sec Pacific	28⅛	28¼
Black & Decker	15⅝	16	Ingersoll Rand	48	47½	Shell Trans	54½	54½
Block (H&R)	34¼	34	Inland Steel	19⅞	19¼	Sherwin Wlms	20⅛	21⅛
Boeing	45⅛	45½	Intel Corp	42	41¼	Skyline Corp	14½	14½
Boise Cascade	23⅝	23½	IBM	96	96⅛	Snap-On-Tools	29½	29⅝
Borden Inc	30½	30¼	Intl Flav & Fr	89⅝	89	Southern Co	30⅝	30
Bristol Myrs Sq	82⅝	81	Intl Paper	69⅞	69¾	Sthwestern Bell	58⅛	57⅞
Browning Ferris	17⅛	17	James River Va	19⅝	19½	Stanley Works	36⅛	36⅝
Burlington Nthn	36	35⅝	Jhnsn & Jhnsn	94¼	95¼	Sun Company	27¼	27⅝
CBS	142½	144¼	K Mart	41⅛	41⅝	Sun Microsys	24½	24⅝
CNA Financial	89¾	89¾	Kellogg	102⅞	104	Suntrust	35¼	35⅝
CPC Intl	81	80½	Kerr-McGee	39⅛	39⅛	Super Valu	26⅛	26⅛
CSX	52	50⅝	Kimberly-Clark	93½	92½	Syntex Corp	41	40⅝
Campbell Soup	72½	74⅛	Knight-Ridder	46⅛	47⅛	Sysco Corp	40⅝	40⅝
Can Pacific	16½	16⅝	Lilly (Eli)	73½	73¼	TRW Inc	36½	36½
Cpl Cities ABC	397⅛	397½	Limited Inc	25½	25	Tandem Comp	9⅞	10¼
Cpl Holdings	49¾	49½	LIN Brdcstng	64¼	65	Tandy Corp	26⅛	27¼
Carolina Pwr	48⅝	48⅝	Lincoln Nat	52¼	51¼	Telecom Corp	1	1
Caterpillar	42½	42⅝	Litton	66⅞	84¼	Teledyne	19¼	19
Central & SW	50⅛	50⅝	Liz Claiborne	37⅝	37	Temple Inland	46¼	44½
Champion Intl	24¾	24½	Lockheed Corp	43½	44⅛	Tenneco	35	34¼
Chase Manhat	17	16⅞	Louisiana Pac	38¼	37	Texaco	61¼	61½
Chemical Bk	22¼	22¼	MCI Commun	26½	25⅛	Texas Inst	29	29½
Chevron Corp	69¼	69½	Manuf Hanover	25¼	25¼	Texas Utilities	40½	39⅝
Chrysler	11½	11⅛	Marriott	16	16⅛	Textron	36⅛	36½
Chubb Corp	65	66¼	Marsh & McLnn	71⅛	72¼	Time Warner	84½	84¼
Cigna Corp	53	51⅞	Martin Marietta	53⅞	53¼	Times-Mirror	27⅝	26⅝
Citicorp	10⅝	10⅛	Masco Corp	22	21⅞	Timken	23¼	22⅝
Clorox	38	38¼	May Dept St	52⅝	52¼	Torchmark	52½	52
Coastal Corp	30⅛	30½	Maytag Corp	14⅝	14	Toys R Us	28¼	27⅞
Coca Cola	65¾	66⅝	McDonalds	34¼	34⅝	Transamerica	38⅝	38⅝
Colgate Palm	40¼	40	McDonnell D	72⅝	72½	Travelers Corp	19⅞	20¼
Columbia Gas	18⅞	18⅞	McGraw Hill	52½	53	Tribune	36¼	36½
Commonw Ed	40⅞	41⅛	Mead Corp	31⅛	31⅛	Tyco Labs	32⅝	32
Compaq Comp	25⅝	26	Medtronic	75½	76	UAL Corp	126	125½
Comp Ass Intl	9⅝	9¼	Mellon Bk	34⅝	33⅞	UST Inc	54¼	53¾
Conagra	44¼	44¼	Melville Corp	41⅛	41⅝	USX Marathon	28⅝	28⅝
Cons Edison	25⅛	24⅞	Merck Inc	144¾	138⅛	Unilever NV	92⅝	92¼
Cons Nat Gas	41⅛	41⅝	Merrill Lynch	51½	52	Union Camp	45¼	46⅝
Cons Rail	73⅛	72⅞	Minnesota Mine	88½	88⅝	Union Carbide	18⅝	18⅝
Cooper Inds	50⅛	50⅛	Mobil Corp	66½	67⅛	Union Pacific	46¼	47
Corning Inc	73½	72¼	Monsanto	63⅞	63½	Unisys Corp	3⅞	4⅛
Crown Cork	86½	86⅞	Morgan (JP)	61¼	61⅞	USAIR Group	9⅞	9⅝
Dana Corp	26⅝	26⅝	Motorola Inc	61⅛	60¼	USF&G Corp	6⅝	6¼
Dayton Hudson	59⅝	60½	Natl Medical	13⅝	15	US Life	44⅝	44¾
Deere	50⅛	50⅛	Natl Semi	5¼	5¼	US West	34½	34½
Delta Air Lines	59	60	Natl Service Ind	20⅝	21	United Tech	48⅝	47⅝
Deluxe Corp	37½	38	Navistar Intl	2⅝	2⅝	Utd Telecomms	22¼	22½
Detroit Edison	33⅝	33⅛	NBD Bancorp	42¼	42½	Unocal Corp	25	24⅝
Digital Equip	60⅝	61½	NCNB Corp	35½	35¼	Upjohn	41⅛	41⅛
Dillard Dept St	123	123¾	NY Times A	18⅞	19¼	VF Corp	36½	36½
Disney (Walt)	107¼	106⅝	Newmont Mng	38	38⅝	Wal-Mart Stores	47⅝	47½
Dominion Res	56⅝	56¼	Niag Mohawk	17⅛	17⅝	Warner-Lambert	69⅞	70
Donelley (RR)	47⅝	47¼	Nike B	56⅝	56⅛	Waste Mngmnt	35⅝	35⅛
Dover Corp	35	34¼	NL Industries	10⅝	10⅝	Wells Fargo	62	61⅞
Dow Chemicals	50⅝	50⅛	Nordstrom	35⅝	35	Westinghouse El	16⅝	16⅛
Dow Jones	23⅜	23	Norfolk Sthrn	58¼	57⅞	Weyerhaeuser	23⅞	23⅞
Dresser	19⅝	19⅛	Nthn State Pwr	41⅛	41¼	Whirlpool	34½	34½
Duke Power	30⅞	30⅝	Norwest Corp	29¾	30¼	Whitman	12¼	12⅞
Dun & Brdstreet	47⅛	47	Nynex Corp	75⅝	75½	Winn Dixie	35⅛	35¼
Du Pont	45⅝	44⅞	Occidental Pet	20½	20⅝	Woolworth	26¼	26½
Eastman Kodak	46⅝	47⅝	Ohio Edison	19⅛	19¼	Wrigley (Wm) Jr.	64	63½
Eaton Corp	55⅝	57⅛	Oracle Systems	14½	14½	Xerox	62	62

TOKYO

Index still above key level

Tokyo – Share prices again succumbed to nerves about Wall Street to finish weaker but above their day's lows. The Nikkei index was down 127.00 points, or 0.54 per cent, to 23,199.86.

Waves of index-linked selling battered share prices in thin volume, brokers said, but the Nikkei index stayed above the key 23,000 level with bargain-hunters lending some support.

Amy Yip, of Baring Securities, said: "People seem to be giving up a bit, thinking it's not much fun with the market dictated by just these two factors – arbitrage unwinding and Wall Street. Tokyo is following New York's lead."

Turnover reached about 300 million shares compared with 284 million shares on Tuesday. Falling issues outnumbered rises by nearly three to one, with 742 lower, 248 higher and 158 unchanged.

The main falls were the broking, communications, construction, credit/lease, airline, property, warehouse, electrical, non-life insurance, and banking sectors. The rubber, food, pharmaceuticals and assorted manufacturing sectors were the only rises.

The Nikkei awoke to the news of Wall Street's 41-point drop on Tuesday and opened 55.14 points below its close on Tuesday of 23,326.86.

Knocked by waves of arbitrage selling, it dipped sharply to touch its day's low of 23,018.31 and then moved nervously around the key 23,000 level.

☐ **Frankfurt** – The market was closed for the Repentance Day holiday. *(Reuter)*

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21st November, 1991

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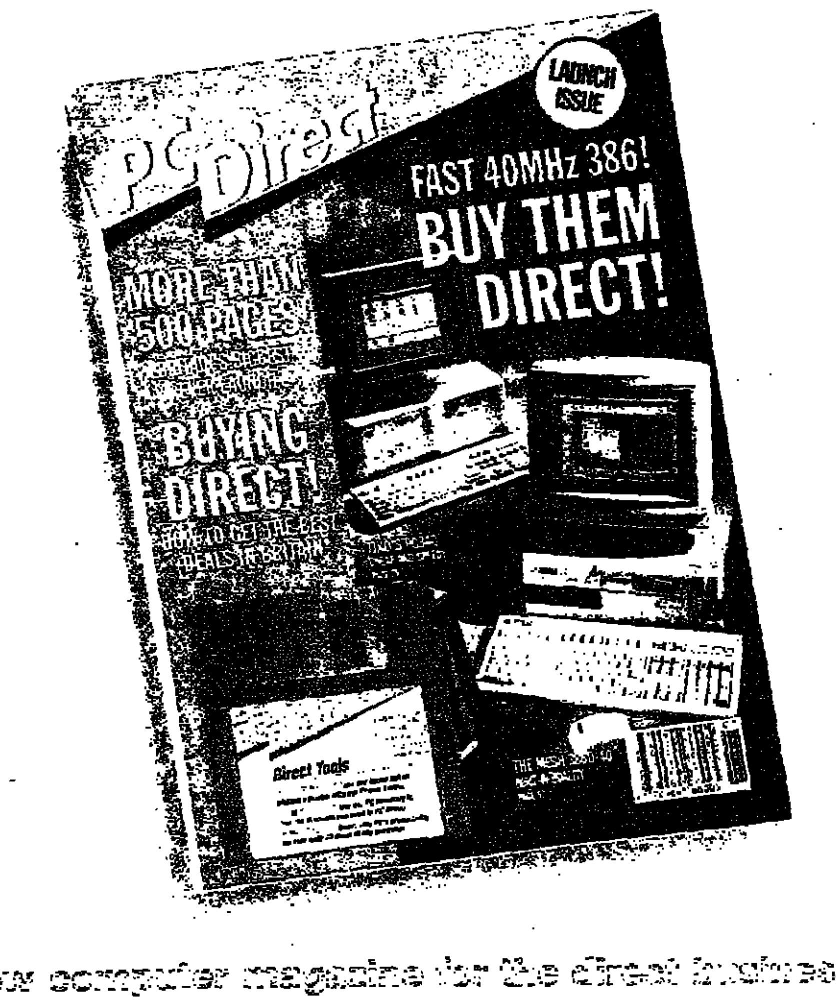

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died, diplomatic sources said. (Reuter)

interim. Tough negotiations are expected on both issues.

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ABB shapes up for east Europe

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

ABB Asea Brown Boveri, the Swiss-Swedish power engineering group, announced a restructuring programme "in response to the changes within the European Common Market from 1993 and onwards, and to the integration of plants acquired in eastern Europe".

This will be one of the first west European restructuring programmes to result partly from east European expansion, although the company has not given precise details.

The programme would not represent a sharp break, ABB said. It would merely be an adjustment to slower economic growth. Nine-month pre-tax earnings, also announced yesterday, rose from $749 million to $754 million for the period to September 30. Turnover was up from $18.84 billion to $20.31 billion.

The company, which has its headquarters in Zürich, reiterated earlier statements that it expected to match 1990 earnings after financial items were taken into account.

While the reference to eastern Europe in the restructuring statement refers to plants already acquired, the overall effect of ABB's east European expansion could be greater if the company gains control of Škoda Plzen, the Czech power engineering group and eastern Europe's principle builder of nuclear power stations. ABB's main opponent in the talks with the Czech government is Siemens of Germany.

Shani edges ahead

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHANI Group, the north London textiles group, which designs and supplies women's and children's wear for the high street chains, increased pre-tax profits from £1.89 million to £1.9 million in the year to end-July despite tough conditions. Sales fell from £14.6 million to £12.9 million.

Earnings per share slipped from 9p to 8.9p but the final dividend is maintained at 2.4p, making an unchanged 4p. The shares rose 6p to 86p on the Unlisted Securities Market after the news.

There was an extraordinary charge of £41,000, being the cost of withdrawing from the German subsidiary.

Martin Hollis, the chairman, said that the year had been one of the most difficult on record in the industry. However, Shani's cash position remained strong, ending the year at £4.89 million and Mr Hollis said it is continuing to seek acquisitions.

He said: "Trading in the current year remains highly competitive. I am, however, confident that Shani, as one of the better performers in its sector, will have a satisfactory outcome for the year."

Scantronic's interim slump

Scantronic Holdings, the security systems group, is holding the interim dividend at 0.79p despite a slump in pre-tax profits to £1.11 million (£2.01 million) in the six months to end-September. Earnings per share fell from 3.33p to 1.01p, hit by a 33 per cent tax charge (25 per cent last time), as well as reduced profitability.

Shrinking demand in the mohair market: Victor Watson awaits an upturn

Deferrals damage Foster

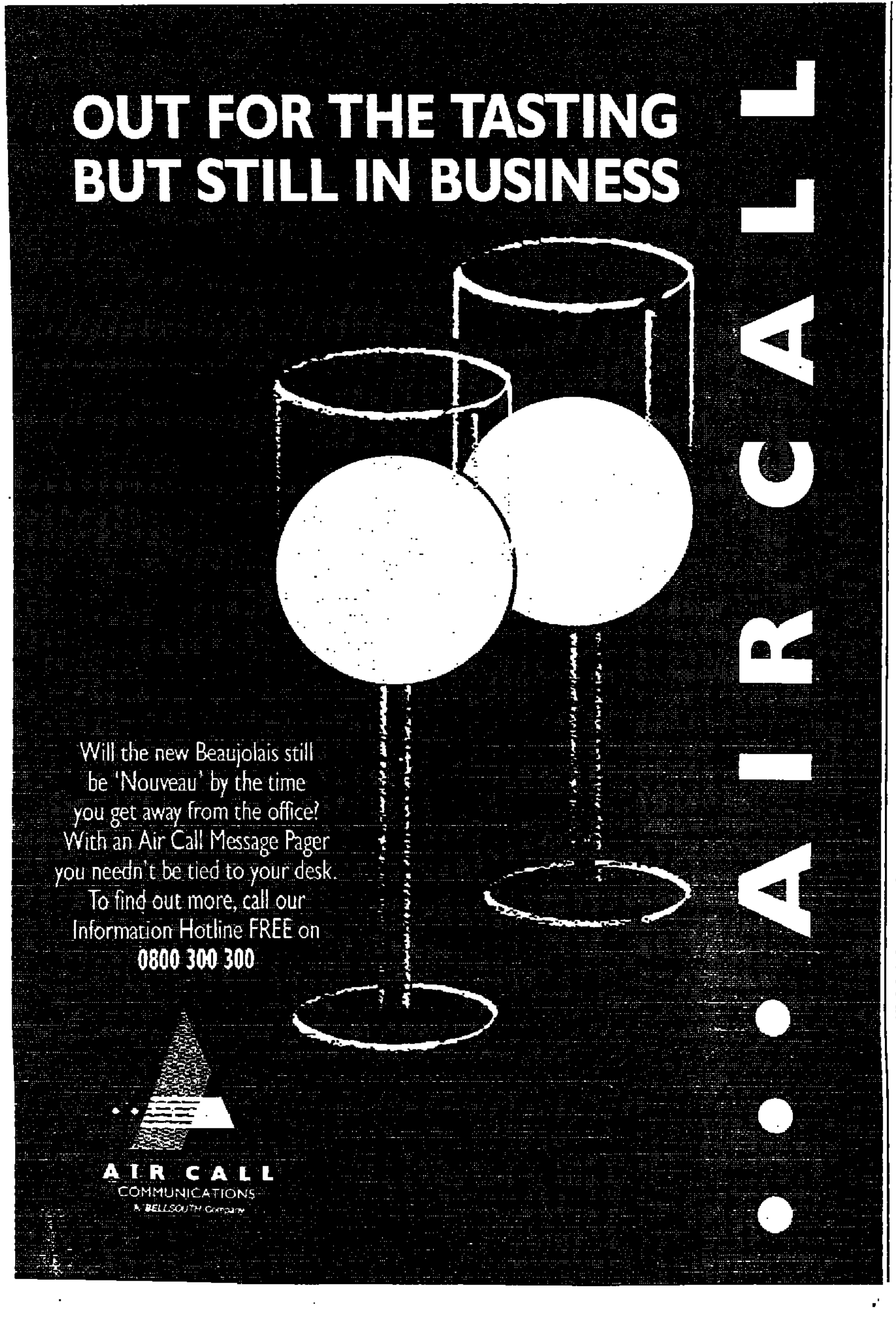
By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

JOHN Foster, the wool textile group known for its luxury cloth, suffered in the first half after several large customers deferred contracts for the group's high value mohair cloth.

The group made an operating loss of £819,000 for the six months to end-August compared with a loss of £684,000 last time, but the pre-tax loss was reduced to £23,000, compared with £928,000, by an exceptional credit of £1 million from the sale of surplus land. Turnover fell from £12.7 million to £10.3 million and the loss per share was 0.2p compared with a loss of 5.3p. There is no interim dividend and none was paid last year.

Victor Watson, the group's chairman, said: "The cost base of the business has been significantly reduced and manufacturing efficiencies improved. The group is now well placed to take advantage of any upturn in its markets".

He said that despite the difficult trading conditions the group expects to make a small pre-tax profit for the full year. Shares in the group fell 1p to 52p.



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Law Report November 21 1991 Privy Council

Altering priority of mortgages

Cheah Theam Swee v Equiticorp Finance Group Ltd and Another

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Sir Michael Kerr

[Judgment November 14]

Where there were two mortgages of the same property, in the ordinary case the mortgagees could effectively agree to alter the priority of their mortgages without the consent of the mortgagor.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held in dismissing an appeal by the appellant debtor, Cheah Theam Swee, from the Court of Appeal of New Zealand which on October 31, 1990 had allowed an appeal by the respondents, Equiticorp Finance Group Ltd and Equiticorp Nominees Ltd, from Mr Justice Wylie in the High Court of New Zealand, who had decided the issue in the debtor's favour.

Mr D. F. Dugdale, of the New Zealand Bar, for the debtor; Mr R. J. Craddock, QC and Mr M. E. Parker, both of the New Zealand Bar, for the respondents.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that by mortgage I the debtor convenanted to pay certain sums and as security charged 14 million shares "by way of fixed first charge". By mortgage II the debtor covenanted to pay certain further sums and as security charged the same shares "by way of second fixed charge".

Both mortgages became vested in the first respondent, which obtained judgment against the debtor for a sum the payment of which was secured by mortgage I.

The respondent then exercised its power of sale under mortgage II over the shares. The proceeds of sale were applied not in satisfying the moneys due under mortgage I, being the judgment debt, but in or towards discharging the debts secured by mortgage II. The Court of Appeal treated the respondent as having waived its priority under mortgage I, and that had not been challenged.

The debtor took the view that he was entitled to insist that the proceeds of sale should have been applied in the order laid down by the original mortgages, in which case the judgment against him would have been fully satisfied. He applied for an order that the judgment had been fully satisfied.

Mr Justice Wylie decided in the debtor's favour. The Court of Appeal reversed that decision, and the debtor appealed. There was no Commonwealth decision on the point, which was of practical importance in relation to the subordination of debts.

The question had to be approached on the basis that the mortgages had remained vested in two separate mortgagees. The respondent, as holder of both mortgages, could not be in a better position than the original mortgagees.

The question was whether two mortgagees could, without the consent of the mortgagor, agree to vary the priority of their mortgages. In the ordinary case, the mortgagor was not affected by the order in which his debts were satisfied, and priority affected only the rights of the mortgagees *inter se*, in particular where the security was inadequate to pay all the secured debts in full. The mortgagor was bound to satisfy all his secured debts before he could recover the mortgaged property.

Moreover, the mortgagor had no right to insist on the mortgagee pursuing one of his remedies rather than another. In the present case, mortgagee I was fully entitled to sue the debtor on his personal covenant and rely on that alone. Mortgagee I could abandon or waive its security to the benefit of both mortgagee II and the debtor; the debtor had no right to insist that mortgagee I enforce its debt against the security.

The mortgagor could insist that, on redemption by payment, he got back his security. But even if there had been no alteration in the priorities and the debtor had paid the sums secured by mortgage I, he would not have been entitled to recover the mortgaged property until the debts secured by mortgage II had been paid. The alteration in priorities did not adversely affect the debtor's rights to recover his security.

In the ordinary case a mortgagor had no right to insist on the order in which successive mortgaged debts were satisfied. The provisions of mortgage I describing the charge as a first charge were merely a description of the nature of the security which the debtor was giving: it did not confer on him a contractual right to insist on the satisfaction of his debts in any particular order.

There might be cases, for example, where the successive mortgages carried differing rates of interest, where the mortgagor had a genuine interest in ensuring that the debts were satisfied in a particular order. In such a case it would be for the mortgagor to insist upon a specific contractual provision precluding the alteration of the priorities of the mortgages.

Their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be dismissed.

Solicitors: D. J. Freeman & Co; Alan Taylor & Co.

Use of compulsorily purchased land

Procter and Gamble Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others

Before Lord Justice Mustill, Lord Justice Mann and Sir Christopher Slade

[Judgment November 14]

An order for the compulsory purchase of land made for one purpose could not lawfully be confirmed for another purpose or for a purpose additional to that for which the order was made.

However, such an order made for the stated purpose of regenerating land in an urban development area was not unlawful because it was subsequently confirmed by the Secretaries of State for the Environment, Energy and Transport for the purpose of providing the local highway authority with land for highway improvements.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the applicants, Procter and Gamble Ltd, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Auld on June 4 of their motion that a compulsory purchase order made by the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation in respect of land and office buildings at East Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, should be quashed.

Mr Malcolm Spence, QC and Mr Nicholas Nardecchia for the applicants; Mr Michael Barnes, QC and Miss Alison Foster for the secretaries of state; Mr David Mole, QC and Mr Nicholas Huskinson for the development corporation.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that 2,375 hectares of land east of Newcastle was designated an urban development area in 1987 under the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 and the development corporation was established to regenerate it.

The applicants sought to have quashed a compulsory purchase order made under the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 by the corporation so far as it affected their premises within the development area known as New Sandgate House.

Outline planning permission was granted to demolish New Sandgate House and replace it by new office buildings. Further, in a statement under rule 4 of the Compulsory Purchase by Public Authorities (Enquiries Procedure) Rules (SI 1976 No 746) served on the applicants by the development corporation and giving reasons for making the order no mention was there made of any need to improve roads in the area. The approved scheme did not accommodate such an improvement.

Following an enquiry in 1989 an inspector recommended confirming the order and on July 3, 1990 the secretaries of state accepted that recommendation and confirmed the order.

However, a need, perceived by the local council, to widen roadways became a critical factor. The applicants' land was ceded by the development corporation for highway improvements.

Mr Spence's main submission was that the secretaries of state had confirmed the order for a purpose different from the purpose for which it had been made and was unlawful.

Despite absence of any authority on the point, it was clear that a compulsory purchase order made for one purpose could not lawfully be confirmed for another purpose or for a purpose additional to that for which it was made.

Confirmation was the ratification by the confirming authority of what the acquiring authority had resolved to do. By hypothesis the acquiring authority would not have resolved to acquire for any purpose other than that for which the order was made.

What, then was the purpose of the order? If it was the implementation of the outline planning permission for the development, as suggested as one alternative by Mr Spence, then the applicants would succeed as the road widening was incompatible with the approved layout.

Mr Justice Auld had rejected that and was right to do so. Mr Spence's primary contention that the purpose of the order was the regeneration of East Quayside was correct.

As the inspector had mentioned in his report, road improvements were necessary to secure regeneration. It was impossible to say that "the purpose for which the order was confirmed in regard to the applicants' land was not within the terms of the purpose for which it had been made.

The means of achieving the expected purpose had plainly changed between making and confirmation from an office development to a road improvement but the expressed and actual purpose remained constant.

Lord Justice Mustill agreed and Sir Christopher Slade gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Pothecary & Barratt for Mr R. M. Downey, Gosforth; Treasury Solicitor; Nabarro Nathanson.

When court cannot prevent alleged breach

Doncaster Borough Council v Green

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith

[Judgment November 11]

The court had no power to grant injunctions to prevent alleged breaches of planning control in circumstances where Parliament had specifically provided an exception to the service of stop notices when the planning activities were not yet illegal, and might not be, and there had been no constant breach of any previous enforcement notices or loss of planning appeals.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal brought by Mr William Green and 53 other defendants against the decision of Judge Maddocks, sitting as a deputy Chancery Division judge, on July 15, 1991 when he granted Doncaster Borough Council two injunctions in respect of use of land in a green belt as a gypsy caravan site without planning permission.

Mr Barry Payton for the defendants; Mr Patrick Clarkson, QC and Mr Mark Phillips for the council.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that Mr Green purchased some fields with the intention of using them for a gypsy caravan site. In April 1991, he spoke to the council's planning department and was told he would have to submit an application for planning permission and that since the fields were in a green belt he was warned that there was a strong presumption against the grant of planning permission.

By the end of May, the council was notified that Mr Green had applied for electricty and water supplies. The council warned Mr Green of their intention to obtain injunctions unless he desisted but before the council could do anything works took place to establish the area as a caravan site over a weekend and by the time the council received Mr Green's planning application on June 24 the site was virtually established.

On July 9 the council served enforcement notices (i) requiring the owners of the caravans stationed on the land to discontinue their use of the land and (ii) requiring removal of the road, water and electricity supply, sewage and sheds. Those notices took effect on August 13.

Under section 175(4) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enforcement notices were of no effect pending the final determination or withdrawal of an appeal. It therefore followed that at that time although the development was *prima facie* unlawful it was not yet illegal.

Section 183 of the 1990 Act provided that once an enforcement notice had been served a council could serve a stop notice at any time before the enforcement notice took effect but under section 183(3)(b) a *stop* notice could not prohibit the use of land as the site for a caravan occupied by any person as his only or main residence.

The council therefore felt unable to serve stop notices and had already started proceedings on June 9 when they served a writ and statement of claim on Mr Green and 53 other defendants. The council also served a notice of motion seeking two injunctions.

His Lordship could well see that the judge felt he had a situation where the law was being deliberately flouted. But where Parliament had specifically provided an exception to the service of stop notices and where the activities though unlawful were not yet illegal (and might not be) and there had been no constant breach of any previous enforcement notices or loss of planning appeals the court had no power to grant an injunction to fill the gap.

His Lordship was supported in his view by the fact that in enacting the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, which would come into force on a date to be appointed, Parliament closed the gap in section 9 which substituted a new section 183 into the 1990 Act which removed sub-section (2).

Section 3 of the 1991 Act introduced section 187B which provided that where a council considered it necessary or expedient for any actual or apprehended breach of planning control to be restrained by injunction, they could apply to the court for an injunction.

When those provisions came into force Parliament would stop the gap but that was for the future only. For the present, his Lordship regrettably concluded that the court had no power to grant the injunctions.

Lord Justice Dillon delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed.

Solicitors: Hammond Suddards, Leeds; Mr David Littlewood, Doncaster.

Defence of duress for tribunal of fact

DPP v Bell (Derek)

Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Roche

[Judgment November 1]

Where the defence of duress was raised in relation to an illegal course of action, the point at which that course of action ceased to be legitimised by that defence was a matter for the tribunal of fact. It was not open to the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on an appeal on a question of law to investigate whether or not the facts found did amount to duress.

The Divisional Court so held when refusing a prosecution appeal by way of case stated against the decision of Warwick Crown Court (Mr Recorder Malcolm Lee, QC and justices) to allow the appeal of Derek Bell against his conviction by Rugby Justices for driving with excess alcohol, contrary to section 6(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981. He had been banned for three years and fined £380.

Mr R. G. Merrylees for Mr Bell; Mr Andrew Urquhart for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that the defendant's conduct was not disputed but he raised the defence that he had been acting under duress.

The crown court on appeal found as facts that the defendant, as driver, with three friends had been to various pubs and finally to a club where the defendant, who admitted that he had intended to continue driving, got into an argument and was forced to beat a hasty retreat.

He and some of his passengers were unable to stand their ground, got into his car, reversed, running over one of his passengers in the process, and drove off. The defendant was at the time in terror of being caused serious personal injury and drove off in that belief.

The crown court had been of the opinion that, being satisfied that the defendant might have been acting under duress then the defence was entitled to succeed and the question of whether he would have acted in a similar fashion in certain other circumstance did not arise; and that such other circumstances admitted of the possibility of his being persuaded by his passengers not to drive or changing his mind at the last minute.

The prosecution asserted that the defence was not available to a person whose material actions would have been the same if the threatening circumstances had not occurred.

Counsel for both sides contended that it was only necessary to go to *R v Ortiz* ((1986) 83 Cr App R 173). As put there, duress by circumstance was where the defendant gave way to circumstances and acted in accordance with them.

Here on the facts the defendant acted so, driving off because of terror. That was a finding of fact with which the Divisional Court could not interfere. In a hypothetical case what he might have done was not relevant.

What would have been of relevance would have been that the threats were not the *sine qua non* of his driving but the time to debate that had passed. There was no finding that the defendant while driving had ceased to act through terror.

Solicitors: Talbots, Rugby; CPS, Warwick.

Contractual defence to claim to enforce costs order

Horizon Technologies International Ltd v Lucky Wealth Consultants Ltd

A party to a *Tomlin* order, faced with a claim to enforce the schedule thereto, was entitled to rely as a defence on contractual rights not included in the schedule.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Sir Maurice Casey) so held on November 14 in allowing an appeal by the appellant, Horizon Technologies International Ltd, from the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong ([1991] 1 HKLR 563) who had allowed an appeal by the respondent, Lucky Wealth Consultants Ltd, from the ruling of Mr Justice Liu that the *Tomlin* order made on May 9, 1989, was to be read subject to the terms of a deed of settlement of the same date and that judgment would not be entered for the respondent without first enquiring whether the respondent was in breach of a term of the deed.

SIR MAURICE CASEY said that a *Tomlin* order was an order for the stay of proceedings upon terms which were scheduled to the order but which were not otherwise part of it.

The parties had entered into a deed of settlement to resolve the complex situation which had developed among them. As part of that settlement the appellant was to pay the amounts set out in the schedule, which was duplicated in the schedule to the order.

The schedule was clearly an integral part of the deed, but was put, as it were, in parenthesis to take advantage of the *Tomlin* order procedure for summary judgment, so that the payments could be quickly and cheaply enforced.

The segregation of those items for that purpose did not remove them from the operation and effect of the rest of the deed. Accordingly, it was open to the appellant to raise an allegation of default under clause 7 of the deed as a possible defence to the respondent's claim to enforce the order.

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Dollars flow into a scarred society

Wealth is already being enjoyed in Hungary, the envy of the other new democracies in eastern Europe. But there are still many problems, as **Ernest Beck** reports

If you ask any Hungarian how he or she is faring under the new democratic regime and emerging market economy, the response will probably be a litany of complaints. Prices are high and taxes crippling.

In many cases, however, the tirade is interrupted only by a second helping of rich cream cake, before the person in question speeds off in a BMW to inspect a new house rising in the leafy Buda hills.

Reality is elusive in the country once known as "the happiest barracks in the bloc", the place where cautious communists first toyed with market reforms and private enterprise, and taught President Gorbachev how a few incentives *could* put more food in the shops.

Although they live much better than their neighbours behind the former Iron Curtain, Hungarians have not lost their penchant for pessimism. Amid the first signs of growing wealth and economic recovery, apparent a year and a half after democratic elections swept away the remnants of socialism in March and April 1990, they easily lapse into prophecies of doom.

With each new multi-million dollar foreign investment or joint venture, Hungarians are likely to wonder when the bubble will burst, rather than feel pleased about a job well done.

Perhaps the gloom harks to Hungary's past. A subordinate role in the Habsburg Empire, dismemberment by the Trianon Treaty after the first world war, then the decision to join the Nazi campaign to dominate Europe, followed by German occupation, have left their mark.

The decades of humiliation endured after Soviet troops silenced the cry for freedom in the 1956 uprising further ingrained a sense of defeat. "Hungarian history is a sequence of tragic events," says President Arpad Göncz, a writer, translator and veteran of 1956, who is seen by many as the conscience of the nation, and who has this week made the first official visit to Britain by a Hungarian head of state.

When democracy did come, it was handed to Hungarians on a silver platter. The former Communist Party, sensing defeat and hoping to outflank the rising tide of reform, opted for self-destruction. No blood was spilt and no demonstrations slowed weekend shopping sprees to Vienna.

The masses marched in Prague, Warsaw and Bucharest against Stalinist regimes, but the Hungarians simply negotiated a complicated, but peaceful, transition before trickling to the polls, with little enthusiasm, to elect a centre-right government.

After years of one-man rule under János Kádár, the man chosen as prime minister was a dour museum director, Jozsef Antall. He promised a return to Europe, a social market economy, and "traditional Christian moral values". Although he appeared bumbling and uncertain at first, dithering over appointments and policy, and misreading the effect of petrol price rises which led to an embarrassing three-day taxi strike last November, Mr Antall's stewardship deserves praise.

For many, he lacks the charisma of a Vaclav Havel, the president of Czechoslovakia, or the domineering presence of a Lech Walesa, the Polish leader, and he is prone to dreary speeches and carping over press criticism. Like him or not, however, Mr Antall's accomplishment has been to guide the country deftly to a political stability and sound economic programme that are the envy of other struggling post-communist governments.

Bumbling beginner, but Antall now deserves praise

"I must be a madman or a missionary to take on this job," Mr Antall said after his election, in a rare moment of self-mockery. He was mad, arguably, to tackle an inheritance of communist mismanagement and a $20 billion (about £11 billion) foreign debt, the largest per capita in central Europe. The persuasive powers of a missionary were needed to convince reluctant western businesses that Hungary was the best place to invest their money.

The results, however, are spectacular. Foreign capital is flooding Hungary — about $1 billion in the past year, or roughly half of all investment in the region. Despite a severe recession, which has seen industrial production fall and inflation soar, some Hungarians are doing well, some *very* well. Personal hard currency savings have doubled from last year to top $1.5 billion, according to the Hungarian National Bank.

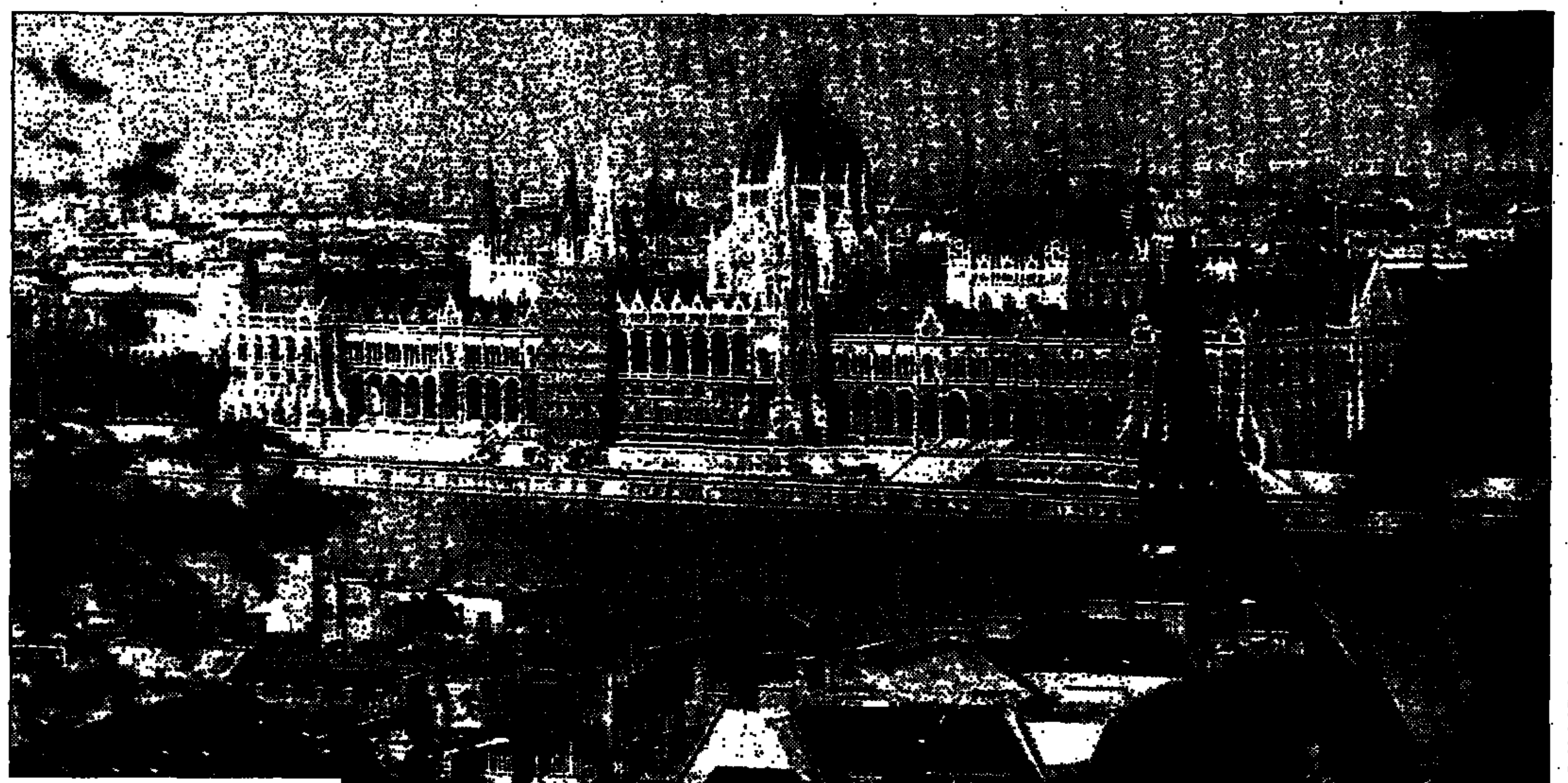
Signs of wealth are everywhere. On Saturday morning, young families queue to buy high-priced Swedish furniture at the local Ikea outlet. The Porsche dealership in the former East German cultural centre reports an upsurge in sales. Even in the off-season, it is hard to get a table at the best Italian restaurant in Budapest, where a meal costs the equivalent of an average month's salary.

Scratch the surface, however, and it is easy to find the results of a painful transformation. The new democratic government found itself saddled with the mess of a failed socialist safety net. In the blighted districts of Budapest, the elderly live on pensions of £50 a month and scavenge in rubbish bins. The homeless gather at soup kitchens for their only warm meal of the day. Statistics vary, but it is believed that up to a third of the population lives below the poverty level.

Drug dealers and prostitutes are proliferating, and other crime is rampant. Mr Antall himself is not safe. Parliamentary guards admitted stealing his watch when he was absent from his office.

The "free" health-care system is crumbling, and only a hefty bribe gets you on to the operating table. There has been a housing shortage for decades. Divorce, suicide, alcoholism and infant mortality rates remain far above west European averages.

Facing a financial crisis, Mr Antall and his ministers have little extra money to help to alleviate the suffering found on their doorstep.



Troubled waters: the Hungarian parliament in Budapest is struggling with the new freedoms

Not surprisingly, Mr Antall's popularity has fallen. Polls show that the League of Young Democrats, a forceful, under-35 party whose leaders look trendy and talk straight about the future, would easily defeat Mr Antall's conservative Democratic Forum if an election were held today.

Public mistrust of politicians is, however, widespread. Decades of forced obedience to party hacks can be blamed for the apathy, together with televised sessions of the current parliament in which MPs quarrel endlessly over how to redress communist crimes and whether the national symbol should have a crown.

Yet Mr Antall cannot be accused of fiddling while Budapest burns. Sorting out sticky domestic issues, such as compensating the church for lost property, and landowners for holdings confiscated by the communists, was, he argues, a way of settling scores and providing "historical justice", no matter how long and boring the debates.

Realigning foreign policy was easier. Hungary has tilted slowly, but inexorably westward, reshaping its image from that of a loyal servant of Moscow to that of a trustworthy European partner. It has joined the Council of Europe, come near to agreement on associate membership of the European Community, helped to bury the Warsaw Pact and knocked at the door of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

On the other hand, with the rise of nationalism in Slovakia, Romania and Serbia, where altogether about three million ethnic Hungarians live as minorities, relations with neighbouring countries have shown signs of strain. Mr Antall's self-proclaimed status as protector and guardian of Hungarians who live abroad has ruffled diplomatic feathers in Bucharest and Belgrade, and aroused old suspicions that Budapest harbours plans to reclaim territory.

This is nonsense. The foreign ministry in Budapest is steering clear of interference and presses minority rights issues only at international levels. Hungary's careful neutrality in the Yugoslav conflict is conclusive proof. Despite incursions by Yugoslav aircraft, an attack on a Hungarian village, disruptions at frontier crossings, and the influx of almost 40,000 refugees that it has no money to house and feed, Hungary remains a frontline state which has kept its cool as the storm rages across the border.

Hungary could one day emerge as a central European Switzerland, a calm, conservative and credible country playing host to tourists and a flourishing financial sector, and nurturing prosperity without constant political upheaval. This is the dream of many Hungarians.

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هكذا من الاصل

As the state monoliths are slowly dismantled, brave entrepreneurs are trying to drag their economy out of the communist mire

Last breath of the pickled cucumber

The small corner grocery in Kisfaludy Street, in Budapest, is typical of many shops which fell into ruin under communist neglect. Peeling paint and meagre offerings of cabbage and peppers are ample evidence that under the old regime, the customer was nothing but a nuisance, and profit rarely given a thought.

That should all change now that Mrs Tibor Papp, the new owner, has taken over. She intends to sack the surly staff, replace the neon lights, and offer a quality selection of imported products. For £15,000, cobbled together from savings and a bank loan at 30 per cent, Mrs Papp bought into Hungary's fledgling entrepreneurial class at a state-sponsored auction.

However, it will not be easy as competition is fierce and consumer spending down. Inflation is running at 35 per cent. Although Hungarians had a head start in home-grown high street capitalism under the old regime, the government's plan to shed an estimated 10,000 shops, bars, and restaurants in the first wave of small-scale privatisation is floundering.

Shops in city centres such as the bustling Vaci Utca, a street well known to tourists, sell quickly and prosper. Fast food and services previously unknown, such as copy shops, also thrive. But shops in the outlying districts and countryside do not do so well.

Some economists suggest there is a psychological barrier to be crossed. Making money is suspect, and sometimes frowned upon. The much-vaunted stock market, the first in eastern Europe, is limping along, and open only two hours a day. "Nobody wants to buy flimsy pieces of paper," one analyst says.

Mrs Papp and other aspiring capitalists may have the will to succeed, but it is the large foreign companies, with their cash reserves that are really fuelling the restructuring of the Hungarian economy.

The foreigner-friendly strategy of tax incentives, cheap labour and promises of no union problems, has worked. Eight thousand joint-venture companies have been registered in the past year. In just one week in November almost a quarter of a billion dollars in new foreign investment found its way to Hungary.

General Motors, Philip Morris, United Technologies and the Beacon company, an important American property developer, all announced projects — including the building of central Europe's largest hotel and office complex in Budapest.

Suzuki and General Motors cars will soon be rolling off assembly lines in Hungary. They will replace the tinned peas and pickled cucumbers which Hungarian factories once dutifully shipped to a captive Soviet market, which vanished with the collapse of Comecon, the socialist trading bloc.

The fast pace of restructuring means that Hungarian exports are heading west: trade in this direction has swollen by 18 per cent this year while the Soviet market has shrunk by 60 per cent. Greater access to European Community markets should come shortly when Hungary, along with Poland and Czechoslovakia, signs an association agreement. Despite a dispute with France over exports of Hungarian goose and duck liver, tariffs are expected to fall for Hungary's vast agricultural surplus.

Progress has been slower in selling off large state enterprises, especially heavy industry. Unlike Czechoslovakia, which chose to sell cheap shares to its citizens, Hungary prefers foreigners to take control. Bidding is light, however, for these uncompetitive communist giants, many of which survived bankruptcy only through subsidies.

Murky property laws and bureaucracy add to the confusion. Attempts to sell off the Gellert hotel, a luxury establishment in Budapest, were cancelled recently amid conflicting land claims. Sometimes the machinery of privatisation is agonisingly slow. Colgate Palmolive recently backed out of a deal after an 18-month delay.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that about one-tenth of 2,000 state enterprises have passed to private hands, and that 25 per cent of gross domestic product is generated by the private sector's 37,000 limited liability companies. The gold rush includes Hungarian businessmen eager to scoop up consumers and to cash in on niche markets, with gimmicky products and services.

Slick new business magazines regale readers with tales of entrepreneurial sleight of hand, including Budapest's only topless hairdresser, and one man who grows mushrooms in an old Soviet nuclear missile silo. These brash pioneers are setting the pace for change and denting the long dole queues. The government hopes their bravado will inspire others to shrug off the years of communist complacency.

E.B.

Past master: heavy state industries are being sold off as Hungary embraces capitalism

Faded Habsburg elegance entices tourists

This year 40 million visitors flooded into Budapest, the dilapidated Paris of the East

So many visitors are pouring into Hungary that street vendors have taken to selling T-shirts emblazoned with the sarcastic slogan "This is Budapest, not Bucharest", to remind the one-country-a-day tourists exactly where they are.

Tempted by scenes of toppled statues of Lenin and the fall of the Berlin Wall, holidaymakers are discovering the "real" Europe behind the former Iron Curtain, and Hungary has become the most convenient, and most pleasant, first stop on a tour of the former eastern bloc.

Here East meets West, and the initial shock is cushioned by the sight of locals in jeans, pizza shops, boutiques and a fleet of Mercedes taxis. Budapest is enjoying its fame as the elegant, but dilapidated Paris of the East. It is the fourth most popular travel destination in Europe, and this year has attracted 40 million visitors, bringing in a record $1 billion and making tourism one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy.

With its tree-lined boulevards and quiet backstreets, its charms hark back to its heyday as the second city of the Habsburg empire. Imperial airs remain in the baroque buildings and the royal palace, which dominates Castle Hill, high above the winding, brackish waters of the Danube.

Although 30,000 buildings were destroyed in the war, it still has masterpieces of many periods. Art deco reached a peak there at the turn of the century, when Hungarian architects vied with the Viennese. Today, the flamboyant and flowery patterns and gold-inlaid designs shine through layers of dust.

At night, Budapest has a magical and romantic air, as the flickering lights of the Danube bridges are reflected in the dark waters below.

Steamy knights: floating chessboards provide diversion at Széchenyi baths

In the busy summer season, it is sometimes difficult to walk down the elegant Danube "Corso", the promenade which runs along the river. Germans and Austrians march along in motley packs, arguing with peasant women about the price of lace tablecloths, while groups of Italians sit in shaded cafés, sipping capuccino and exchanging tips on where to buy the cheapest Ray-Ban sunglasses.

The ambience is moody and melancholic, the prices are affordable (although that is changing rapidly) and away from the tourist haunts is a world that has not changed in 40 years. Quiet cobble-stoned streets have crumbling and grimy houses whose façades are riddled with bullet holes. In the hidden courtyards, elderly women beat their carpets in the dim sunlight.

It is a walk through history. At Deák square, the onion domes of the central synagogue — the largest in eastern Europe — mark the entrance to the old Jewish ghetto, where families of merchants and craftsmen who survived the Holocaust eke out a living in their tiny shops.

The imposing neo-Gothic parliament no longer has its giant red star, but the balcony where Imre Nagy, prime minister during the 1956 uprising, made his plea for freedom, is still there. Tours are arranged to old Soviet army bases.

Those tired of walking can soak lazily in one of the city's numerous outdoor thermal baths — preferably the Széchenyi, a neo-baroque edifice with carved portals and mosaic walkways. The locals entertain themselves with floating cork chessboards, while more energetic souls plough through clouds of steam.

There is life beyond Budapest, however. Residents of the capital leave en masse every summer for Lake Balaton, the Hungarian Riviera, which is the country's only claim to a coastline.

Overdevelopment has tainted some stretches of the shore with tower-block hotels. But this vast expanse of warm, shallow water and gentle vine-laden hills delights swimmers and windsurfers.

South of the lake is Pécs, a wondrous city, way off the tourist trail. With its red-tile roofs and gardens, perched on a sloping mountainside, Pécs resembles a remote Mediterranean enclave. Once a busy crossroads of east-west trade, it remains rich in art and architecture, and also retains the legacy of the Turkish occupation.

The city's main square is dominated by the huge mosque of Gazi Kasim Pasha — the largest surviving Turkish monument in Hungary. Modern art can be admired at the Victor Vasarely museum, dedicated to the native son credited with being the founder of Op Art.

E.B.

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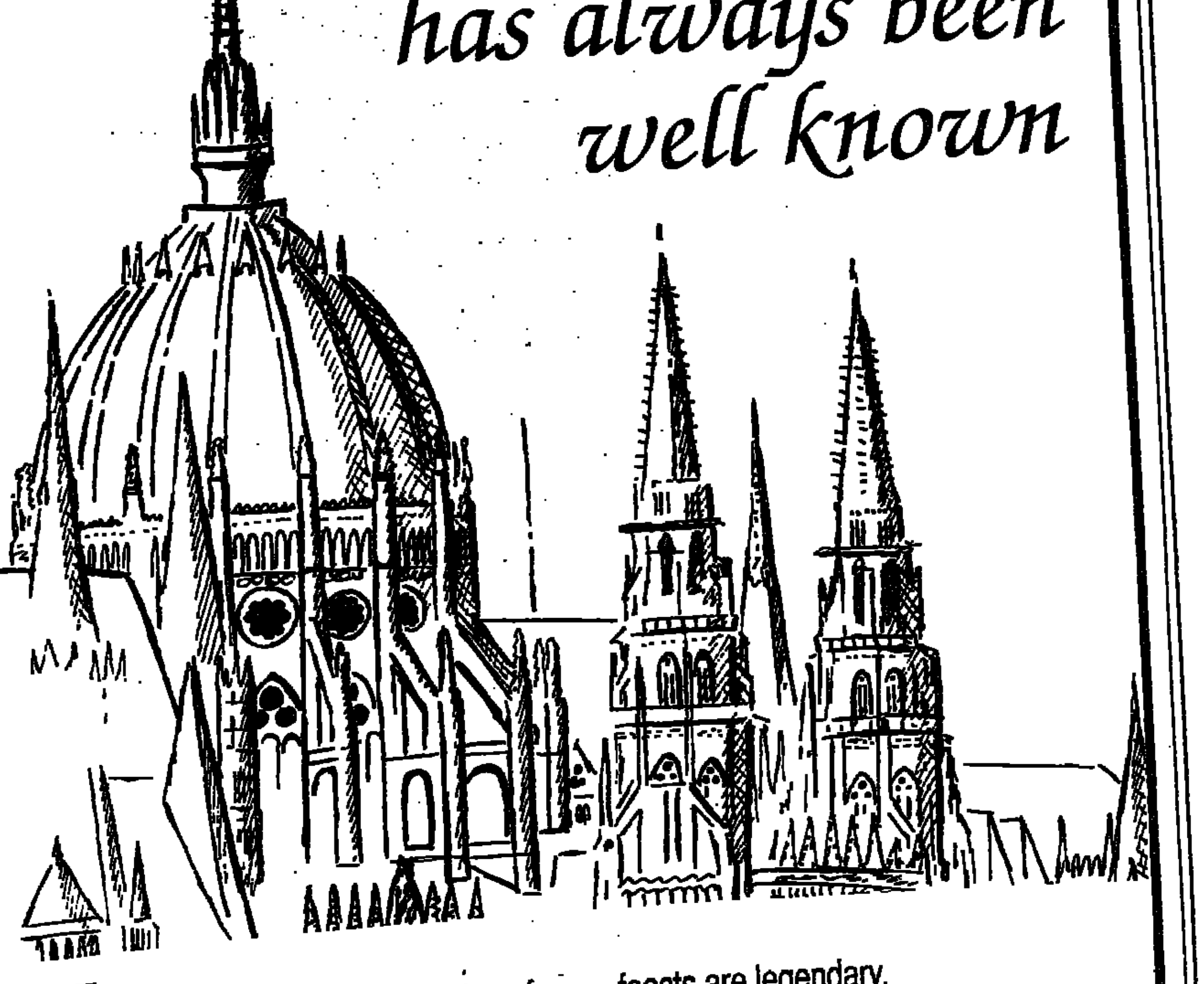

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UPDATE

Protected by a pinta

CHILDREN who drink plenty of milk have lower blood pressure and may be warding off heart trouble later in life, a study reported to the American Heart Association meeting has found. Matthew Gillman, of Boston University, said pre-school children's blood pressure was four points lower for every glass of milk they drank daily.

Cracked it

SCIENTISTS with the British Antarctic Survey have for drilled through the ice shelf to the water below. They report in *Nature* that the 562-metre deep hole through the Ronne shelf has confirmed predictions about the currents of the water, which helps to aerate and cool the oceans.

Woman at risk

THE largest study of passive smoking yet carried out shows that non-smoking women living with men who smoke are at far greater risk of lung cancer.

The survey, by a group led by Dr Elizabeth Fontham, of the pathology department at Louisiana State University medical centre, found the risks of adenocarcinoma, the least common type of lung cancer among smokers, were increased by 70 per cent among women married to smokers.

Almost human

A COMPETITION for intelligent computers in Boston, Massachusetts, has been won by a program called PC Therapist, which fooled five out of ten judges into believing it was human. The first annual Loebner Prize went to Joseph Weintraub, the president of Thinking Software, for for the best-performing program in a test devised by the British pioneer Alan Turing in 1950.

Virus alert

British computer virus experts have begun compiling a monthly league table of attacks to provide an early warning for firms and organisations. The table, which is also being distributed to Scotland Yard's computer crime unit, is being made by Edward Wilding of the authoratitive *Virus Bulletin*.

Putting the finger on a poisoner

After 80 years, DNA fingerprints confirm that Crohn's disease may be caused by infected meat or polluted water. **Malcolm Brown** reports

JOHN MANNING

Finding the link: Professor John Hermon-Taylor now wants food and water supplies investigated

A Scottish surgeon's suspicion that chronic enteritis, known as Crohn's disease, might be identical to the animal condition Johne's disease has been vindicated, nearly 80 years after the event, using DNA fingerprinting.

Researchers at St George's Hospital medical school, London, have proved that the bacillus causing Johne's is present in most Crohn's patients. Their finding suggests that the source of Crohn's may be milk or meat from infected animals, or water supplies contaminated by animal wastes.

There are about 60,000 Crohn's sufferers in the UK and the number is rising, particularly among young women and children. The disease consists of chronic intestinal inflammation, causing abdominal pain, diarrhoea and rapid weight loss, and retards children's growth and sexual maturation. Some patients need repeated surgery to clear the intestines or remove irreversible disease.

In 1913, Thomas Dalziel suggested in the *British Medical Journal* that Crohn's and Johne's were the same, although he lacked techniques to trace in humans the fine bacilli found in the animals. In the 1980s, scientists researching Crohn's at the Middlesex Hospital and elsewhere looked for mycobacteria, tough rod-shaped bacteria that flourish in difficult conditions, including dust and pond water. They found some in Crohn's patients, but also in healthy people.

John Hermon-Taylor, the professor of surgery at St George's, took up the research, believing that DNA fingerprinting, which matches sequences of genetic material in tissue samples, might reveal similarities. In 1985 he obtained from the United States three samples from cultures seeded with the tissues of Crohn's patients. He and his colleagues extracted 40-billionths of a gram of DNA from the first and 20-billionths of a gram from each of the other samples.

Professor Hermon-Taylor used DNA fingerprinting to show that the DNA from the three specimens and from the agent known to cause Johne's, *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, were identical.

However, growing cultures from Crohn's disease tissues takes a long time and Professor Hermon-Taylor needed a method to detect the Johne's bacillus directly in diseased tissues without culturing. Just such a technique, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), has been developed in the US and Professor Hermon-Taylor has harnessed it. PCR allows him to multiply tiny quantities of DNA, producing enough for the fingerprinting technique.

Professor Hermon-Taylor says: "Scientists here have applied the method to DNA extracted from tissues of patients having abdominal operations for Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and other disorders such as cancer where the rest of the gut is normal."

Out of 40 "normal" samples only five (12 per cent) were positive for the bacillus; from 23 people with ulcerative colitis only one (4.3 per cent) was positive; but 26 of the 40 Crohn's patients (65 per cent) showed up positive.

Professor Hermon-Taylor concludes: "We must now investigate food and water supplies to see if we can find how the disease is spread. We have more than enough evidence to warrant action, and we will need resources to carry it out."

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Sea shells have it all wrapped up

Crabs and lobsters may provide a new material with a wide range of uses

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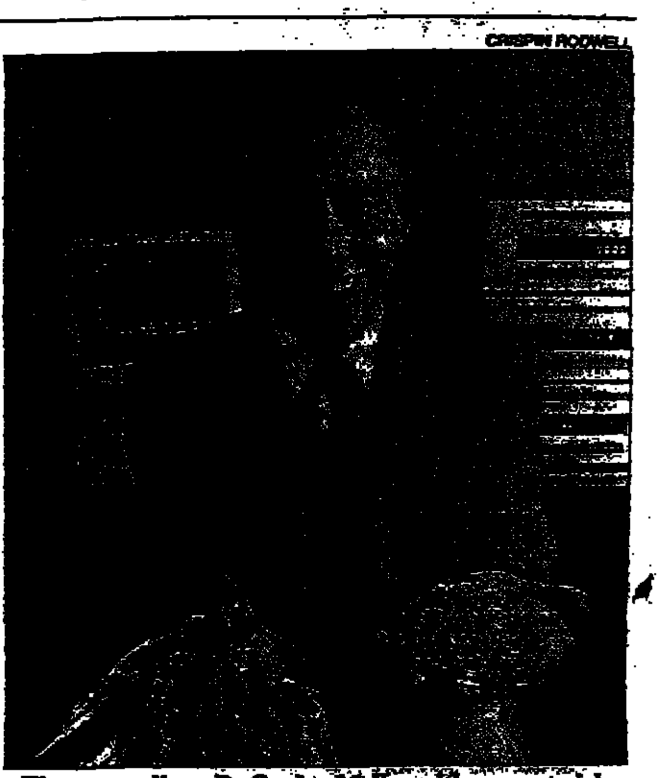

Throwaway lines: Dr Gordon McKay with raw material

Waste shells from processed prawns, crabs and lobsters may soon provide a material with uses as varied as cleaning contaminated water and wrapping fruit.

After 20 years, engineers at Queen's University, Belfast, headed by Dr Gordon McKay, have found a cheap way to extract chitin, the material that makes shells hard.

The chitin is produced by washing and drying the shells and treating them with sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid. The chitin can be converted to a related and more useful substance, chitosan, whose chemical structure allows it to bind at several points to metal atoms in solution.

This characteristic is the basis for purifying waste water containing metal ions. Positively charged particles, or metal ions, dissolved or suspended in the water, which may come from lignosulphates in paper mill effluent, natural tannins in leather processing, or copper in electro-plating plant, bind strongly to the chitin or chitosan and come out as natural solids. The water can then be filtered for discharge or re-use.

Industrial liquid systems can similarly be cleansed of dyes, pesticides, waste proteins, heavy metals and even chlorinated compounds, promising huge benefits for the pharmaceutical, animal feed and food industries.

Efforts to purify waste solutions by other means, such as ion exchange, chemical oxidation and electrochemical treatment have been costly and have achieved little.

The wine trade could gain because impurities can be removed by the same principle. Dr McKay plans a wine-clarifying kit as the university's first chitin product, which he intends to follow with an apparatus to treat beer and fruit juices.

Chitin can also be used to form clear protective films, making an excellent oxygen barrier, and might be used for packaging or in food preservation. Chitin-coated apples on shelf display for six months remain fresh. Treated similarly, seeds, including cereal crops, are protected from fungi and keep their moisture and nutrients indefinitely.

Other applications are in medicine, where chitin can be used as a thickening agent, inducing blood-clotting, or as a slow-release capsule for drugs. Dr McKay says: "All these value-added products comes from what is a waste material. There is plenty of the stuff floating about."

The final stage of the work, a two-year product development project shared by Queen's and Cork Regional College, is being supported by the European Community. The prototype plant, near the university, should be in operation within two years.

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Fifth Amendment looks ready

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

FOLLOWING that sound run in third place behind Tipping Tim and Sea Island at Cheltenham 13 days ago, **Fifth Amendment** can now win the Lord Stalbridge Memorial Gold Cup at Wincanton today.

At Cheltenham nothing was going better than Fifth Amendment jumping the third-last fence but shortly afterwards, like the majority of the horses that his trainer Jenny Pitman has run this autumn, lack of peak fitness began to tell on what was his seasonal debut, and he was allowed to come home in his own time.

With that race under his belt however, Fifth Amendment should now be in the right condition to do himself better justice.

When winning by ten lengths at Leicester last February, he showed that today's distance of three miles and a furlong is well within his range whereas for the recent course winner Eastshaw it represents a new challenge since he has been campaigning mostly around two-and-a-half miles.

For Windy Ways the distance will certainly be no problem judged on the way that he performed last season.

In this instance, though, he and the others could well find Fifth Amendment just a fraction too sharp.

While Josh Gifford will have been most disappointed at the way events worked out for three of his most promising young jumpers at Ascot last weekend, he will be looking to a fourth, **Deep Sensation**, to make amends by winning the Chard Novices' Chase.

Deep Sensation has always looked every inch a chaser with a pedigree to match. Yet he still managed to take pretty high rank when he was racing over hurdles, most notably when winning the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury.

Now that he will be tackling the sort of task for which he was basically bred, he should come into his own and possibly go right to the top.

While conceding that Young Hustler and Joker's Patch must go well in the Great Western Novices' Hurdle judged on the way that each won recently, I'm content to go nap on the Toby Balding-trained **Ask Frank**, who won even more convincingly at Chepstow last time.

If Spacial fails to beat **Rambling Song** in the Nightingale Handicap Chase over a distance that could well stretch his stamina beyond its limits, consolation for his trainer Nick Gaselee should not be long coming in the form of **Easy Buck** winning the Wessex Handicap Hurdle.

Gaselee: fine chance for Easy Buck

Instead of waiting for Easy Buck to be re-rated following that ten-length victory at Wolverhampton ten days ago, Gaselee has decided, quite understandably, to go to the well again quickly with only a 4lb penalty to carry.

Finally, as far as the Wincanton programme is concerned, the Orchard FM Second Anniversary Novices' Handicap Hurdle can go to **Chief Celt**, who is now in the care of Jeff King following Peter Bailey's retirement.

There was a lot to like about the way that this full brother to that good horse Celtic Chief performed behind Thetford Forest at Wolverhampton when he ran for the first time for his new handler.

At Haydock, an enormous rise in the weights overnight has given the Gordon Richards-trained **Pinemartin** a good chance of winning the Tim Molony Memorial Chase. An hour later, his stable companion **Wayside Boy** could also collect the Makerfield Novices' Chase.

As far as the Coral Golden Hurdle qualifier is concerned, I like none better than **Ambuscade** who was a good third behind Danny Harrold and The Demon Barber at Chepstow.

WINCANTON

MANDARIN
1.00 Deep Sensation.
1.30 ASK FRANK (nap).
2.00 Rambling Song.
2.30 Easy Buck.
3.00 Fifth Amendment.
3.30 Chief Celt.

THUNDERER
1.00 Deep Sensation.
1.30 Young Hustler.
2.00 Skinnhill.
2.30 Va Lute.
3.00 Fifth Amendment.
3.30 Chief Celt.

RICHARD EVANS
2.30 Easy Buck.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 EASY BUCK.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.00 CHARD NOVICES CHASE (£2,232: 2m) (11 runners)

1 050-0R1 CHESAPEAKE BAY 12 (D,F) (Redenham Racing Group) G Balding 8-11-5 S Hodgson ● 99
2 0-5322P COBBLERS COOLER 8 (Mrs J Smith) G Charles-Jones 6-11-1 C Llewellyn —
3 5/13F40- DEEP SENSATION 254 (G,S) (R Eliot) J Gifford 6-11-1 D Murphy —
4 J/2P-2PF FLOOD MARK 7 (R Ford) R Hodges 7-11-1 P Verling (3) 77
5 53/04-00 FRED SPLENDID 12 (G Small) R Hodges 8-11-1 W Irvine —
6 115/P-36 GREY ADMIRAL 21 (V,F,G) (G Stickland) G Stickland 8-11-1 S Stickland 75
7 04/2/0P- MASTER SOUTH LAD 344 (E Carnell) R Hodges 7-11-1 G Upton —
8 05/ MIKE'S DIAMOND 623 (Mrs H Chittem) A Turnell 7-11-1 L Harvey —
9 PF40- SIDEBUCK 234 (G Gregson) G Gregson 7-11-1 H Davies —
10 5424P-3 THE SHY CONTROLLER 19 (BF) (M Bateman) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-1 M Pitman —
11 5000-F5 STAR OF KUWAIT 7 (F) (R Short) N Thomson 7-10-10 B Powell 74

BETTING: 4-6 Deep Sensation, 4-1 The Shy Controller, 6-1 Chesapeake Bay, 8-1 Star Of Kuwait, 10-1 Cobblers Cooler, 12-1 others.

1990: FOR THE GRAIN 8-12-1 R Dunwoody (1-7 fav) D Nicholson 2 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHESAPEAKE BAY beat Change The Act 1½l in 12-runner Windsor (2m, firm) novice chase with FRED SPLENDID 50½l 9th. COBBLERS COOLER 1½l 2nd of 9 to West With The Wind in Nottingham (2m, good to firm) novice handicap hurdle.
DEEP SENSATION, high-class hurdler at best, 31l 10th of 24 to Morley Street in grade I Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) in March; earlier beat Adaal ¾l at Warwick (2m, good). GREY ADMIRAL tailed off 8th of 10 to Deadly Charm in Kempton (2m, good) novice chase with STAR OF KUWAIT fell when 4th and beaten at the last. MIKE'S DIAMOND 11¼l 5th of 21 to Fifth Amendment in novice hurdle here (2m, good to firm) in March 1990. THE SHY CONTROLLER 3¼l 3rd of 16 to Warner For Winners in Chepstow (2m, soft) novice hurdle. STAR OF KUWAIT 33l 5th of 14 to Among Friends in Taunton (2m 3f, good) novice chase with FLOOD MARK fell at the 8th.
No selection

1.30 GREAT WESTERN NOVICES HURDLE (£3,057: 2m 6f) (15 runners)

1 404-P11 YOUNG HUSTLER 8 (G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-8 P Scudamore 91
2 002-31 ASK FRANK 19 (S) (POWTC Ltd/ Speedy Snaps) G Balding 5-11-4 R Guest ● 99
3 0P00-1 JOKERS PATCH 10 (D,S) (Mrs L Webb) B Holder 4-11-4 N Mann 89
4 21322-5 BUCKINGHAM GATE 10 (G) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 5-11-0 B Powell 57
5 COOLCRONAN (Miss S Cutcliffe) O Sherwood 5-11-0 J Osborne —
6 6 CRYSTAL CONE 57 (A Palk) P Hobbs 5-11-0 Peter Hobbs —
7 02225-5 LIRIE LAD 18 (B Brereton) P Rodford 5-11-0 I Shoemark 70
8 00P-6 LORDY 21 (Mrs L Drasher) J McConnochie 5-11-0 J Shortt —
9 0 PHARYNX 14 (S O'Sullivan) Mrs J Retter 4-11-8 J Kavanagh (3) —
10 0PP- SARUM PRINCE 294 (Mrs A Vining) R Callow 5-11-0 I Lawrence —
11 030P/ TEARFUL PRINCE 687 (C Mitchell) C Mitchell 7-11-0 — —
12 00-0 BARONESS ORKZY 7 (Mrs C Paterson) W G M Turner 5-10-9 H Davies —
13 600B-06 CASSCA 14 (R Short) N Thomson 6-10-9 — 82
14 32063-5 KIWI VELOCITY 16 (A Stoddart) D Barons 4-10-9 N Hawke 81
15 P00-P0 SIMPLY SPIM 10 (A Elliott) D Jermy 4-10-9 P Davies (7) 67

BETTING: 11-8 Ask Frank, 3-1 Young Hustler, 4-1 Jokers Patch, 6-1 Kiwi Velocity, 8-1 Coolcronan, 14-1 Crystal Cone, 20-1 others.

1990: BANKER'S GOSSIP 6-11-8 R Dunwoody (4-9 fav) D Nicholson 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

YOUNG HUSTLER beat Kannbaniya 1½l in 24-runner Worcester (2m 4f, good to soft) novice hurdle; previously beat Wedding Feast 8l in 17-runner Hereford (2m 3f, good) novice handicap hurdle.
ASK FRANK beat Flyer's Nap 6l in 20-runner Chepstow (3m, soft) novice hurdle. JOKERS PATCH beat Sunninghill Celtic 10l in 17-runner Wolverhampton (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft) novice hurdle with BUCKINGHAM GATE 27l 5th. CRYSTAL CONE 14l 5th of 15 to Easby Mandrina in Perth (1m 5f, good) National Hunt Flat race. LIRIE LAD 44½l 5th of 18 to Child Of The Mist in Devon (2m 3f, good) novice hurdle. CASSCA 23l 6th of 10 to Keep Out Of Debt in novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm). KIWI VELOCITY 27¾l 5th of 18 to Knighton Coombe in Devon (2m 1f, good) novice handicap hurdle.
Selection: YOUNG HUSTLER (nap)

2.00 NIGHTINGALE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,768: 2m 5f) (5 runners)

1 114F4-4 SKINNHILL 8 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs T Binnington) T Thomson Jones 7-12-0 S Smith Eccles 93
2 13/2/13- RAMBLING SONG 243 (D,G,S) (Lord Chelsea) T Forster 11-11-13 H Davies 91
3 1243-41 SPACIAL 18 (F,G,S) (S Harrap) N Gaselee 7-11-11 B Powell 94
4 201B1-5 THE ARGONAUT 26 (D,F,G,S) (Queen Elizabeth) Mrs F Walwyn 13-11-4 Mr G Oxley 89
5 115-130 SHANNAGARY 12 (CD,F,G,S) (Hunt & Co Ltd) R Hodges 10-11-1 R Dunwoody ● 99

BETTING: 6-4 Shannagary, 3-1 Skinnhill, 4-1 Spacial, 6-1 Rambling Song, 8-1 The Argonaut.

1990: TOM TROUBADOR 7-11-2 E Murphy (8-15 fav) J Gifford 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

SKINNHILL 44l 4th of 5 to Tom Bir in Newbury (2m 4f, good) handicap chase; earlier beat Moe Greene 15l in 4-runner Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good) handicap chase in April.
RAMBLING SONG 2½l 3rd of 5 to Field Conqueror in Bangor (2m 4f, soft) handicap chase in March; previously beat Mister Feathers a distance in Hereford (2m 3f, good) chase. SPACIAL beat Springholm 5l in 4-runner Hereford (2m, good) handicap chase; previously 15l 3rd of 6 to Campsea-Ash in Kempton (2m, good) handicap chase. THE ARGONAUT 48l 5th of 12 to City Entertainer at Worcester (2m 4f, good); earlier beat Double Turn 20l in 3-runner chase at Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, good). SHANNAGARY 9½l 3rd of 7 to Sabin du Loir in grade II Desert Orchid Chase over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start; previously beat Court Rapier 7l over course and distance.
Selection: SHANNAGARY

2.30 WESSEX HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,223: 2m) (8 runners)

1 11FF32- RUN TO FORM 201 (D,G,S) (Heyfleet Partnership) Mrs J Pitman 8-12-0 M Pitman 84
2 113/264- SARTORIUS 383 (D,G) (M Popham) T Thomson Jones 5-11-10 S Smith Eccles 80
3 0B00F-3 VA LUTE 28 (CD,BF,F,S) (Castle Farm Stud) R Holder 7-10-10 N Mann 89
4 126-1 EASY BUCK 10 (D,G,S) (Burford District Laundry Co Ltd) N Gaselee 4-10-3 (4ex) C Maude ● 99
5 15/310-P WESSEX WARRIOR 15 (D,F) (N Crook) M Channon 5-10-0 P Holley 81
6 /2/0P0-3 IMPERIAL FLIGHT 14 (CD,F) (Miss S Douglas-Pennant) J King 6-10-0 J Kavanagh (3) 72
7 03140-6 BARANYKA 7 (S) (N Kavanagh) M Wilkinson 4-10-0 C Llewellyn 78
8 31- PRINCE VALIYAR 407 (D,F) (J Poland) A Moore 4-10-0 G Moore 68

Long handicap: Imperial Flight 9-6, Baranyka 8-1, Prince Valiyar 7-13.
BETTING: 5-2 Easy Buck, 3-1 Run To Form, 4-1 Va Lute, 6-1 Imperial Flight, 8-1 Prince Valiyar, 10-1 Baranyka, 12-1 others.

1990: RUSTY ROC 9-11-10 W Knox (100-30) M Davies 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

RUN TO FORM sh hd 2nd of 13 to Jassu in Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good) handicap hurdle. SARTORIUS 8l 4th of 10 to Iveagh House in Chepstow (2m, good) handicap hurdle.
VA LUTE 6l 3rd of 6 to Monday Club in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to firm). EASY BUCK beat Dooler 10l in 13-runner Wolverhampton (2m, good to soft) handicap hurdle. WESSEX WARRIOR best recent effort when beating The Jogger 2½l in Kempton (2m, good to firm) novice hurdle. IMPERIAL FLIGHT 28l 3rd of 11 to Ambrose in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to firm). BARANYKA 27l 8th of 11 to Welsh Siren in Taunton (2m 3f, good) handicap hurdle. PRINCE VALIYAR beat Dararoyal 8l in 9-runner Plumpton (2m, firm) selling hurdle.
Selection: EASY BUCK

3.00 LORD STALBRIDGE MEMORIAL GOLD CUP
(Handicap Chase: £4,240: 3m 1f) (8 runners)

1 2P221P/ STEEPLE VIEW 618 (G,S) (C Heath) O Sherwood 10-12-0 J Osborne —
2 44/112-1 EASTSHAW 14 (C,F,G,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 9-11-11 C Llewellyn 93
3 3F11-22 FARMLEA BOY 33 (C,F,G,S) (R Lavelle) G Balding 11-11-10 R Guest ● 99
4 3121- WINDY WAYS 201 (G) (Mrs P Sherwood) N Henderson 8-11-4 R Dunwoody 93
5 2311P-3 FIFTH AMENDMENT 13 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs S Robins) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-3 M Pitman 90
6 122-465 GALA'S IMAGE 12 (CD,F,G,S) (B Thackray) J McConnochie 11-10-12 J Shortt 96
7 FU54FP- UNDER OFFER 218 (B,CD,G,S) (Miss S Douglas-Pennant) J King 10-10-4 J Kavanagh (3) 98
8 F904-23 RARE BID 12 (C,F) (Mrs S Maltby) R Hodges 8-10-0 A Tory 96

Long handicap: Rare Bid 9-13.
BETTING: 3-1 Fifth Amendment, 4-1 Eastshaw, 5-1 Farmlea Boy, 6-1 Windy Ways, 8-1 Under Offer, 10-1 Gala's Image, 12-1 Steeple View, 14-1 Rare Bid.

1990: LAUDERDALE LAD 8-10-3 R Dunwoody (11-10 fav) J King 3 ran

FORM FOCUS

STEEPLE VIEW beat Field Conqueror at Newbury (3m, heavy) on penultimate start. EASTSHAW beat Vicars Landing nk here (2m 5f); previously 1l 2nd of 6 to Skinnhill in Sandown (2m 4f 68yd, good) handicap chase with FARMLEA BOY (2lb worse off) nk 3rd.
FARMLEA BOY 2½l 2nd of 9 to Major Match in Kempton (3m, good) handicap chase with GALA'S IMAGE tailed off 6th. WINDY WAYS beat The Forties 10l in 12-runner Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good) novice chase. FIFTH AMENDMENT 11l 3rd of 8 to Tipping Tim in Cheltenham (3m, good) handicap chase. UNDER OFFER best recent effort when 6¾l 4th of 8 to Rowlandsons Jewels in Sandown (3m 118yd, good to soft) handicap chase. RARE BID 3¼l 3rd of 9 to Torrent Bay in Windsor (3m, firm) handicap chase.
Selection: UNDER OFFER

3.30 ORCHARD FM 2ND ANNIVERSARY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,730: 2m) (19 runners)

1 P/50- WOODURATHER 22F (R Barber) M Pipe 5-11-10 P Scudamore 84
2 22F33- DEADLOCK 257 (R Richards) D Elsworth 4-11-2 P Holley 95
3 44552-2 THE SLATER 14 (Kavanagh Roofing Southern) W G M Turner 6-11-0 C Maude 91
4 5005/35- SHOWDOWN 381 (J Blackwell) A Moore 5-10-13 G Moore 84
5 0036P2- ONE TO NOTE 236F (Noteworthy Friends) M Muggeridge 7-10-12 W Irvine 87
6 036-5 CHIEF CELT 17 (Mrs J Peppiatt) J King 5-10-8 C Llewellyn ● 99
7 230/424- CHRISTMAS HOLS 428 (J Chudzynski) J Bosley 5-10-8 M Bosley 90
8 U04-P2P MAGSOOD 16 (BF) (N Babbage) S Mellor 6-10-6 M Perrett 92
9 600// RISING DEXY 954 (Mrs J Underwood) R Akehurst 6-10-1 L Harvey —
10 3404/PP CRISP HEART 7 (C Elford) R Hodges 7-10-1 P Verling (3) —
11 86R53-F REELING 14 (P Rodford) P Rodford 5-10-1 B Powell 74
12 P//303F- BILL QUILL 358 (R Broomhall) P Hobbs 7-10-0 P Hobbs 87
13 58F040- TEN DEEP 195 (G Emery) R Hodges 6-10-0 A Tory 80
14 00/0P0-P KNIGHT IN SIDE 7 (J Hoare) R Callow 5-10-0 I Lawrence 88
15 5//00P5- BOSWORTH BAY 178 (A Newton) B Smart 9-10-0 Lorna Vincent —
16 0/P5600- COOMBESBURY LANE 201 (N McGilligan) P Jones 5-10-0 G Upton 78
17 000U-40 NOTHINGBUTPLEASURE 16 (Quantocks Racing) C Popham 5-10-0 S Burrough 91
18 P00-6UU COOMBE 14 (Mrs J Waring) L Waring 6-10-0 A Jones —
19 F-25F00 OUR BILLY BOY 14 (F Bown) Mrs J Wonnacott 5-10-0 S Donohoe (5) 82

Long handicap: Bill Quill 9-13, Ten Deep 9-12, Knight In Side 9-10, Bosworth Bay 9-9, Coombesbury Lane 9-8, Nothingbutpleasure 9-7, Coombe 9-5, Our Billy Boy 9-5.
BETTING: 9-4 Woodurather, 7-2 Magsood, 4-1 Chief Celt, 6-1 Deadlock, 8-1 The Slater, 10-1 Bill Quill, 12-1 others.

1990: ABU MUSLAB 6-11-5 Mr G Edwards (13-2) G Edwards 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

WOODURATHER put up best effort over hurdles when 13l 5th of 18 to Teenage Scribbler in Folkestone (2m 100yd, soft) novice hurdle; beat Thin Red Line 1l in 17-runner Yarmouth (1m 2f, good to soft) claimer last month.
DEADLOCK 22l 3rd of 6 to Olympian in Sandown (2m, good) hurdle. THE SLATER 4l 2nd of 17 to Run Up The Flag in novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) with OUR BILLY BOY 11th, REELING falling at the last and COOMBE unseating rider 1st. SHOWDOWN 6½l 3rd of 15 to Belmoredean in Plumpton (2m, good to firm) novice hurdle. ONE TO NOTE 1½l 2nd of 12 to Repaido in Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, heavy) novice handicap hurdle. CHIEF CELT 29½l 5th of 15 to Thetford Forest in Wolverhampton (2m, good) novice hurdle. MAGSOOD 6l 2nd of 10 to La Raptotte in Worcester (2m, good) handicap hurdle on penultimate start. REELING 7½l 3rd of 17 to Beltalong in Ludlow (2m, firm) selling hurdle. BILL QUILL 17l 3rd of 17 to Chester Terrace in Hereford (2m, good to soft) novice handicap hurdle with TEN DEEP (1lb worse off) 10l 6th.
Selection: MAGSOOD

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
Mrs J Pitman	14	44	31.8	M Pitman	8	22	36.4
M Pipe	28	90	31.1	P Scudamore	22	69	31.9
O Sherwood	10	43	23.3	S Smith Eccles	4	13	30.8
D Elsworth	22	107	20.6	R Dunwoody	26	116	22.4
J Gifford	9	62	14.5	D Murphy	4	18	22.2
N Henderson	6	43	14.0	J Osborne	9	52	17.3

HAYDOCK PARK

MANDARIN
1.15 Montebel.
1.45 Nautical Joke.
2.15 Pinemartin.
2.45 Garston La Gaffe.
3.15 Wayside Boy.
3.45 Ambuscade.

THUNDERER
1.15 Montebel.
1.45 Nautical Joke.
2.15 Waltingo.
2.45 Sandy's Beacon.
3.15 Wayside Boy.
3.45 Ambuscade.

RICHARD EVANS
1.15 Montebel.
2.15 HOTPLATE (nap).

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.15 NORTHERN JUNIOR HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,427: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1 361-0 CASTIGLIERO 19 (B) (Mrs B Mead) C Brooks 11-4 G Bradley —
2 51 MONTEBEL 12 (G) (M Arnold) N Twiston-Davies 11-4 E Murphy —
3 4263 AUVILLAR 16 (V) (C Friel) D Burchell 11-0 D J Burchell —
4 00 FOURHEARTSDOUBLED 22 (Mrs M Kendall) Mrs M Kendall 11-0 D J Moffatt (7) —
5 32 HELLO VANOS 13 (G Harper) C Beaver 11-0 W Marston (7) —
6 IN PLACE 55F (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 11-0 G McCourt —
7 1 KAYFAAT 15 (G) (Kinch Bulk Haulage (Leicester) Ltd) M Pipe 11-0 NON-RUNNER —
8 315 TOP IT ALL 21 (G) (M Ryan) M Ryan 11-0 J Ryan (3) —
9 40 VADO VIA 12 (G Wiltshire) D Wintle 10-9 A Carroll —

BETTING: 2-1 Montebel, 4-1 Castigliero, 6-1 Auvillar, 8-1 Top It All, 12-1 Hello Vanos, 16-1 Vado Via, 25-1 Fourheartsdoubled, In Place.

1990: KALEIDOS 11-0 G McCourt (7-4) N Tinkler 7 ran

1.45 RAINFORD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,660: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

1 3PP251- GEMBRIDGE JUPITER 197 (D,F,G,S) (A Carver) C Tinkler 13-11-10 F Murtagh ● 99
2 2-62111 NAUTICAL JOKE 13 (D,F,G,S) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 12-11-2 A Larnach (3) 96
3 43-4345 CROCK-NA-NEE 13 (D,G,S) (D Harrison) G Richards 10-10-11 M Moloney 93
4 1345FP- ELVERCONE 201 (V,D,G,S) (Mrs C Scott) A J Wilson 10-10-5 S Wynne (5) 98
5 425235 MASTER SALESMAN 7 (F,G) (Mrs B Bill) B Rothwell 8-10-1 P Barnard 99

BETTING: 8-11 Nautical Joke, 4-1 Gembridge Jupiter, 11-2 Crock-Na-Nee, 6-1 Master Salesman, 10-1 Elvercone.

1990: SKIPPING TIM 11-12-2 J Railton (5-4 fav) M Pipe 6 ran

2.15 TIM MOLONY MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,272: 3m 4f) (4 runners)

1 1514P-3 HOTPLATE 20 (CD,G,S) (W Bellamy (Bakers) Ltd) D McCain 8-11-7 G McCourt 95
2 20364-2 MISTER HARTIGAN 14 (S) (Mrs E Ellis) J Edwards 11-11-2 N Williamson ● 99
3 3511/6-2 WALTINGO 10 (F) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 8-10-12 D Grant 98
4 221212 PINEMARTIN 22 (F,G) (Mrs A Martin) G Richards 8-10-4 M Moloney (3) 95

BETTING: 15-8 Waltingo, 9-4 Mister Hartigan, 100-30 Hotplate, 7-2 Pinemartin.

1990: TWIN OAKS 10-10-9 N Doughty (4-1) G Richards 8 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
M Pipe	45	111	40.0	G McCourt	14	74	18.9
T Tate	3	11	27.3	G Bradley	8	43	18.6
C Brooks	6	26	23.1	M Dwyer	14	85	16.5
G Richards	18	79	22.8				
A J Wilson	3	14	21.4				
O Sherwood	5	26	19.2				

(Only qualifiers)

2.45 WEAVERHAM NOVICES HURDLE (£1,826: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1 0-31 PADIORD 35F (G) (G Wiltshire) D Wintle 4-11-7 A Carroll —
2 4-4 CALDECOTT 13 (Mrs D Whiteman) W A Stephenson 5-11-0 A Merrigan 71
3 COOL DAY (The Ivy Syndicate) T Tate 4-11-0 G Bradley —
4 040-2 GARSTON LA GAFFE 18 (East Garston Racing) M Bradstock 6-11-0 M P FitzGerald (7) ● 99
5 3430- SANDY'S BEACON 233 (Mrs M Brock) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-0 M Dwyer 70
6 0 SHY DUCK 12 (W Stephenson) W A Stephenson 5-11-0 A Larnach (7) —
7 44- WHO WAS THAT 327 (H Feeney) R Whitaker 4-11-0 S Turner 80
8 KINGSLEY 73F (J Painton) Miss S Wilton 4-10-9 S Davies (3) —
9 13/3432- SNITTON LANE 208 (F) (H White) J Edwards 5-10-9 N Williamson 91

BETTING: 9-4 Padiord, 7-2 Garston La Gaffe, 5-1 Snitton Lane, 7-1 Kingsley, 10-1 Sandy's Beacon, 12-1 others.

1990: MAD CASANOVA 5-11-0 J Osborne (2-1) O Sherwood 11 ran

3.15 MAKERFIELD NOVICES CHASE (£3,172: 2m) (6 runners)

1 4400-51 LEIGH BOY 12 (B,D,F,G,S) (J Robson) G Moore 5-11-2 M Dwyer 93
2 6P500-0 CIRCULATION 14 (J Singleton) D McCain 5-10-12 G McCourt —
3 32/023-2 NO MORE THE FOOL 13F (BF) (R Leah) J Berry 5-10-12 B Storey —
4 0/03PS- PERFECTLY POSSIBLE 218 (Quest Design Print Ltd) R Earnshaw 6-10-12 T Reed —
5 5424F6 STRANGELY QUIET 7 (D,F) (P McCourt) T Donnelly 9-10-12 C Grant 80
6 5466P-2 WAYSIDE BOY 9 (E Madden) G Richards 6-10-12 M Moloney (3) ● 99

BETTING: 11-8 Wayside Boy, 15-8 Leigh Boy, 6-1 No More The Fool, 10-1 Perfectly Possible, 14-1 others.

1990: WILLIAM ANTHONY 6-10-12 M Perrett (1-2 fav) M Pipe 3 ran

3.45 CORAL GOLDEN HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £4,240: 2m 6f) (17 runners)

1 0/2133-3 YORKSHIRE HOLLY 19 (C,G,S) (R Wood) M Avison 8-12-0 — ● 99
2 330416- DANNY CONNORS 231 (BF,G,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 7-11-11 M Dwyer 89
3 1P/P22/ MAELKAR 800 (C,BF,S) (P Byrne) J J O'Neill 7-11-7 — —
4 412P1-4 NESSFIELD 19 (G,S) (Royston Racing Club Ltd) K Morgan 5-10-10 A S Smith 86
5 21113/0- DWADME 383 (F,S) (Olympic National Hunt Racing) O Sherwood 6-10-6 M Richards —
6 PP-3113 AMBUSCADE 19 (D,F,S) (Mrs L Firth) Mrs G Reveley 5-10-4 P Niven 95
7 3155-62 OLYMPIAN 19 (B,F,G) (M & N Plant Ltd) T McGovern 4-10-0 W McFarland 98
8 1/0F00-3 AUK EYE 27 (D,G,S) (Mrs H Richards) K White 7-10-0 A Charlton 93
9 41/122- LE BUCHERON 325 (BF,F,G) (Mrs W Sole) M Ryan 5-10-0 G McCourt 80
10 2233-F2 CENTENARY STAR 10 (BF,S) (C Buckley) Mrs G Reveley 6-10-0 Mr M Buckley (7) 95
11 0/0U/41- THE PAPPARAZI 341 (D,G,S) (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 11-10-0 — 86
12 65321/2 MR DORMOUSE 17 (D,G) (Mrs M Rae Smith) I Balding 5-10-0 S Keightley 88
13 4631P-3 SILK DEGREES 9 (F) (G Keary) W Storey 5-10-0 K Doolan 71
14 00310- MR TAYLOR 160F (F) (I Forbes) H Collingridge 6-10-0 V Smith 64
15 35-6021 CAINSBRIDGE QUEEN 28 (D,F,S) (A Kerr) Mrs G Jones 6-10-0 P Ward (7) 67
16 5/2310-0 DOLLY WARDANCE 17 (S) (J Woodward) T Donnelly 8-10-0 C Grant 78
17 0006P-0 CHRISTO 16 (D,S) (D Clarke) D Wintle 9-10-0 A Carroll —

Long handicap: Olympian 9-12, Auk Eye 9-11, Le Bucheron 9-11, Centenary Star 9-11, The Papparazi 9-7, Mr Dormouse 9-1, Silk Degrees 8-8, Mr Taylor 8-6, Cansbridge Queen 8-5, Dolly Wardance 8-4, Christo 5-12.
BETTING: 7-2 The Papparazi, 7-1 Ambuscade, 8-1 Auk Eye, 10-1 Yorkshire Holly, 12-1 Danny Connors, 14-1 Centenary Star, Mr Dormouse, Nessfield, 16-1 Le Bucheron, Olympian, 20-1 Dwadme, Maelkar, 25-1 others.

1990: WESTWAY 7-10-2 M Perrett (9-2 jt-fav) M Pipe 21 ran

Arazi wins top European award

ARAZI was named European horse of the year last night for his spectacular victory in the Breeders' Cup earlier this month. Arazi was preferred to the Arc winner Suave Dancer and Generous for the inaugural award, sponsored by Cartier. Culture Vulture took the best two-year-old filly category, Terimon was best older horse and Sheikh Albadou the best sprinter. Irish-trained Kooyonga was the best three-year-old filly.

Pitman inspects Newbury before Hennessy decision

By GEORGE RAE

JENNY Pitman will walk the course at Newbury early tomorrow morning before making the decision on whether Garrison Savannah will run in Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup.

"If it's soft he won't run," Mrs Pitman said at Kempton yesterday. "He worked well this morning but there is absolutely no pressure on me to run him.

"If we don't go for the Hennessy then he will probably run at Haydock in the Tommy Whittle Chase."

Although heavy rain fell in the south on Tuesday, the forecast for the next few days is for predominantly dry weather. The going on Newbury's chase course yesterday was good with good to soft patches in the back straight.

Martin Pipe warmed up for his Hennessy challenge by completing a double with Master Gleason and Cache Fleur, the former giving Martin Foster a winner on his first ride over fences in the Staines Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase.

Like Mrs Pitman, Pipe is waiting until the last minute to finalise his plans. Chatam is a confirmed runner, but the mud-loving Aquilifer will run only if the ground is good to soft or softer.

Steve Smith Eccles excelled on Norman Conqueror, the two-length winner of the Premier Markets Novices' Chase.

Norman Conqueror's immaturity threatened to be his downfall but Smith Eccles took charge of the six-year-old and, having worked tirelessly to keep Norman Conqueror in contention, drove him to the front on the run-in.

"Norman Conqueror hasn't learned to be competitive yet," said Tim Thomson Jones, the winning trainer. "He doesn't understand that the idea is to get in front and stay there. He's happy to let anyone go past.

"But when he does get the hang of the game I think he'll be a good horse and long-term I'll be thinking about the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham."

Travado an impressive bumper winner at Kempton last season, made an eye-catching hurdles debut when taking the Fairview New Homes Novices' Hurdle.

"I like this horse a lot," Nicky Henderson, the winning trainer, said. "He will learn from this race and I am confident he's got a future."

Henderson confirmed that Sparkling Flame, who missed the feature race on the programme, the Boxing Day Trial Chase Handicap, with a pulled muscle, is likely to reappear at Chepstow on Saturday week.

"There is an Arlington Chase qualifier at Chepstow and I could run him in that instead of in the Rehearsal Chase if it comes up very soft," Henderson said.

In Sparkling Flame's absence, Foyle Fisherman added to his recent eclipse of Garrison Savannah at Wincanton by beating Solidasarock.

Before racing began a lifestyle bronze of Desert Orchid, the winner of four King George VI Chases at Kempton, was unveiled. The sculpture by Philip Blacker overlooks the main entrance.

Resolute Auntie Dot upsets Celtic Shot

AUNTIE Dot claimed the notable scalp of Celtic Shot when landing the Edward Hanmer Memorial Chase at Haydock Park yesterday.

John Webber's brave mare has the Grand National as her long-term target after beating the former champion hurdler by three-quarters of a length.

Celtic Shot looked sure to repeat last year's victory when assuming command early in the straight.

But Graham Bradley's mount soon came under pressure and ultimately found the concession of 21lb too much for him when challenged by Auntie Dot on the long run-in.

William Hill eased Celtic Shot out from 25-1 to 33-1 for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

However, his owner David Horton was far from despondent. "I'm really pleased with the way Celtic Shot ran, giving all that weight away," he said. "The Gold Cup remains the target."

LUDLOW

MANDARIN
12.50 Casienne. 1.20 Pendennis. 1.50 Jimster. 2.20 Ecossais Danseur. 2.50 Charlotte's Oliver. 3.20 Don't Light Up.

THUNDERER
12.50 Casienne. 1.20 PENDENNIS (nap). 1.50 Jimster. 2.20 Clever Claude. 2.50 Oublier L'Ennui. 3.20 Don't Light Up.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

12.50 NORTON NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,800: 2m) (18 runners)

1 CHARLAFRIVOLA 33F T Greathead 11-3 W Humphreys
2 00 PARBOLD HILL 65 K Burke 11-3 R Supple
3 OAK PARK 187F J Pickering 11-1 D Dennis (7)
4 6 GREEN'S SEAGO 16 J Harris 10-13 J A Harris
5 0P SLY PROSPECT 3 (B) K White 10-13 T Wall
6 ABSALOUI 59F W G M Turner 10-12 D Bridgwater (3)
7 000 AWAY FROM REALITY 16 Mrs J Pitman 10-12 G Rowe (7)
8 PS CONTRACTORS DREAM 35 (V) J Bradley 10-11 Mr R Farrant
9 R DANCING TUDOR 20 G Barnett 10-11 M Leese (7)
10 MERCERS MAGIC 33F D Haydn Jones 10-11 D Tegg
11 0 CATUNDRA 15 Mrs A Knight 10-10 George Knight
12 31 CASIENNE 7 (D,G) R Holder 10-6 E Byrne
13 BP04 NEMOPHILIA 3 J Peacock 10-6 —
14 ORBA GOLD 124F R Manning 10-6 R Beggan
15 F5 STATION EXPRESS 28 R Hollinshead 10-5 G Lyons
16 3 NORWICK STAR 28 T Jones 10-4 J Railton
17 60 LATIN MASS 21 A Barrow 10-2 —
18 0 ZAXIS 16 (B) A Reid 10-2 A Maguire (3)

7-4 Casienne, 7-2 Norwick Star, 9-2 Green's Seago, 7-1 Charlafrivola, 14-1 Station Express, 16-1 Orba Gold, 20-1 others.

1.20 HUGH SUMNER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,030: 2m) (6)

1 11P3 CLEVER FOLLY 8 (D,F,G,S) G Richards 11-12-0 N Doughty
2 5-31 BANBRIDGE 28 (CD,F,G,S) D Nicholson 8-11-3 R Bellamy (3)
3 23-3 PENDENNIS 27 (D,BF,F,G,S) N Henderson 8-11-0 J White
4 /22- HIGHFIRE 329 (D,BF,F) K Bailey 9-10-0 NON-RUNNER
5 8-4P DISNEYLAND 54 (D,F) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-0 G Rowe (7)
6 114F RAG TIME BELLE 5 (CD,F,G) G Charles-Jones 5-10-0 A Maguire (3)

6-4 Banbridge, 9-4 Clever Folly, 11-4 Pendennis, 8-1 Disneyland, 12-1 Rag Time Belle

1.50 THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,635: 3m) (7)

1 FFP4 DIANES DESTINY 7 (D,F,G,S) J Upson 7-11-10 T Byrne (7)
2 /3-2 CROWECOPPER 6 (CD,F,G,S) B Preece 12-11-7 T George (7)
3 5130 BOLD IN COMBAT 3 (CD,F,G) T Casey 8-11-1 A Sansome (7)
4 /124 JIMSTER 8 (F,S) C Nash 9-10-10 Mrs P Nash (7)
5 P-P4 NOUGAT RUSSE 10 N Twiston-Davies 10-10-7 J Durkan (5)
6 P5-F FURZEN HILL 6 (D,G,S) J King 12-10-7 Mrs J Horton (7)
7 2313 NETHERBRIDGE 16 (CD,F,G,S) D Gandolfo 13-10-0 R Griffiths (7)

5-2 Crowecopper, 3-1 Jimster, 7-2 Bold In Combat, 6-1 Dianes Destiny, 8-1 Nougat Russe, 10-1 Netherbridge, 14-1 Furzen Hill.

2.20 CRAVEN ARMS SELLING HURDLE
(£1,843: 2m) (19)

1 3105 SOLITARY REAPER 22 (D,F) C Beever 6-12-2 R Greene (5)
2 11-3 CLEVER CLAUDE 22F (D,G) K Bridgwater 5-11-8 M A Fitzgerald (7)
3 P/P0 KOO 17 (D,F) R Champion 5-11-3 R Carson (7)
4 /PP3 ARDRA DUKE 20 (B) F Jordan 7-11-0 J Lodder
5 2-30 BORN WITH A VEIL 14 M Pipe 5-11-0 M Foster
6 -431 ECOSSAIS DANSEUR 16 (B,D,F) J Spearing 5-11-0 A Maguire (3)
7 6523 EMERALD MOON 27 W G Turner 4-11-0 S Earle
8 3/P0 IBN ZAMAN 16 (B) D Carey 5-11-0 R Bellamy (3)
9 0-56 JUST GREAT 89 (B) R Juckes 5-11-0 —
10 /P0- MUMMY'S SONG 173 (D,F) J Harriman 6-11-0 —
11 SP PERUZZI 10 B Stevens 5-11-0 M Stevens (7)
12 P PORTOFINO 45 P Bowen 5-11-0 S McNeill
13 00 RAJPUT RAJAH 21 E Wheeler 4-11-0 M Bowlby
14 0P YEOMAN FORCE 9F J Bradley 5-11-0 Mr G Lewis (7)
15 -P5R BOADICEA'S CHARIOT 24F (D,F) R Manning 4-10-13 R Supple
16 210/ QUEEN MATILDA 745 (D,F) W G M Turner 7-10-13 D Bridgwater (3)
17 0-00 LYNELLY 16 G Price 5-10-9 Mr R Davis (7)
18 P0 NAFPLION 17 R Peacock 6-10-9 G Lyons
19 00 VIGLA 14 G Barnett 4-10-9 M Leese (7)

5-2 Clever Claude, 100-30 Ecossais Danseur, 4-1 Born With A Veil, 7-1 Solitary Reaper, 10-1 Emerald Moon, 16-1 others.

2.50 SIDNEY PHILLIPS NOVICES CHASE
(£2,185: 2m 4f) (11)

1 0-10 OUBLIER L'ENNUI 14 (D,F,G) D Barons 6-11-1 R Greene (5)
2 FP-P ALAN BOY 3 (B) R Peacock 7-11-0 T Eley (7)
3 PP-F BLUSTERY FELLOW 10 J Chugg 6-11-0 W Humphreys
4 -P2U CHARLOTTE'S OLIVER 10 J Mackie 6-11-0 D Tegg
5 00-P DIAMOND RUN 20 Miss H Knight 7-11-0 B Dowling
6 243F FRENDLY FELLOW 16 (B,C,F,G) F Jordan 7-11-0 J Lodder
7 -PPF LUCKY HELMET 10 (S) W McKenzie-Coles 7-11-0 Mr A Farrant (7)
8 F-SP MR DYNAMIC 17 (B) P Cowley 9-11-0 S Cowley
9 0-P3 ROYAL GLEASON 12 B Palling 7-11-0 C Evans
10 2U35 VISION OF WONDER 10 (D,F) J King 7-11-0 S McNeill
11 0/ REMEMBER DEWY 682 R Lee 10-10-9 Mr S Blackwell

2-1 Oublier L'Ennui, 5-2 Charlotte's Oliver, 5-1 Royal Gleason, 7-1 Vision Of Wonder, 10-1 Frendly Fellow, 16-1 others.

3.20 ELTON NOVICES HURDLE
(£1,305: 2m 5f) (13)

1 505- BEN THE BOMBER 187 J Edwards 6-11-0 Judy Davies (7)
2 0 BOLD MAN 19 D Barons 4-11-0 G Greene (5)
3 054 CASTLE DIAMOND 14 H Kavanagh 4-11-0 T Protheroe (7)
4 5- DERISTONE 223 M Davies 6-11-0 Mr R Davis (7)
5 23- DON'T LIGHT UP 161 (BF) J Edwards 5-11-0 D Tegg
6 GYR STAR J O'Shea 6-11-0 D Poole (7)
7 0P6- HORCUM 177 P Pritchard 6-11-0 A Webb
8 -4F5 LLACCA SAM 8 M Eckley 4-11-0 A O'Hagan
9 5PP- LUCKY OLE SON 201 P Bowen 4-11-0 A Maguire (3)
10 0P-3 THE BUTLER 56 W G M Turner 5-11-0 D Bridgwater (3)
11 P-4P ANSHEGEE 10 R Price 6-10-9 Martin Jones
12 P0PP KATIES KAPER 7 (B) C Jones 7-10-9 Gee Armytage
13 000 NICKLARE 7 E Bevan 5-10-9 —

7-4 Ben The Bomber, 7-2 Llacca Sam, 4-1 Don't Light Up, 10-1 The Butler, 12-1 Bold Man, 14-1 Castle Diamond, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Casey, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; R Price, 3 from 9, 33.3%; N Henderson, 6 from 19, 31.6%; M Pipe, 21 from 77, 27.3%; R Manning, 3 from 14, 21.4%; K Bridgwater, 4 from 20, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: M Foster, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%, M Bowlby, 6 from 18, 33.3%; J White, 3 from 16, 18.8%; J Lodder, 7 from 47, 14.9%; D Tegg, 6 from 53, 11.3%, B Dowling, 4 from 37, 10.8%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Haydock Park

Going: good

1.15 (2m hdle) 1, ENFANT DU PARADIS (T Wall, 8-11 fav); 2, Elegant Approach (P Harley, 3-1); 3, Porick (D J Moffatt, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Timothy's Quay (5th), 10 Little Conker (4th). 5 ran. 12l, 10l, 2½l, dist. P Evans at Welshpool. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.70. DF: £2.80. CSF: £3.41.

1.45 (2m ch) 1, SURE METAL (G McCourt, 8-11 fav); 2, Elfast (M Lynch, 5-1); 3, Boutzdaroff (M Dwyer, 7-4). 3 ran. 7l, dist. D McCain at Cholmondeley. Tote: £1.80. DF: £2.20. CSF: £3.78.

2.15 (3m ch) 1, AUNTIE DOT (M Lynch, 8-1); 2, Celtic Shot (G Bradley, 4-6 fav); 3, Killbanon (B Powell, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 6 Bonanza Boy (5th), 12 City Entertainer (4th). 5 ran. ¾l, ¾l, 25l, 4l. J Webber at Banbury. Tote: £6.80; £2.00, £1.40. DF: £3.60. CSF: £13.64.

2.45 (2m hdle) 1, RODEO STAR (G McCourt, 15-8 jt-fav); 2, Cheerful Times (T Wall, 15-8 jt-fav); 3, Easy Over (M Dwyer, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 7 Fleurcone (4th). 4 ran. 3l, 8l, 4l. N Tinkler at Malton. Tote: £2.60. DF: £2.10. CSF: £5.36.

3.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, REAL CLASS (N Doughty, 100-30); 2, Catch The Cross (P Scudamore, 4-7 fav); 3, Tribal Ruler (G McCourt, 9-2). 3 ran. 2l, 7l. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £3.10. DF: £1.30. CSF: £5.21.

3.45 (2m hdle) 1, DUAL IMAGE (M Dwyer, 10-11 fav); 2, Howaryadoon (D O'Sullivan, 15-1); 3, Mugoni Beach (P Scudamore, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Hornblower (6th), 8 Scampi Two (5th), 14 Shrewd John, 16 Killula Chief (4th), 50 Apache Brave, Lakenheather, Old Redwood, The Rusty Nail, Urcos. 12 ran. 1l, 1½l, ½l, 6l, 2½l. Jimmy Fitzgerald at Malton. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £2.60, £1.80. DF: £16.40. CSF: £17.20.

Placepot: £55.70.

Kempton Park

Going: good to soft

1.00 (2m 4f ch) 1, MASTER GLEASON (M Foster, 6-1); 2, Monumental Lad (D Leahy, 4-7 fav); 3, Vincenzo (P Hide, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Okeefee (ur). 4 ran. 1l, 30l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £3.80. DF: £1.80. CSF: £9.43.

1.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, CACHE FLEUR (J Lower, 15-8 jt-fav); 2, Sean's Scholar (J Ryan, 16-1); 3, Bootscraper (N Coleman, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 15-8 jt-fav Castle Secret (4th), 8 Barnsh (pu), 9 Apollo King (5th). 6 ran. 2l, 15l, 15l, dist. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £2.90; £1.40, £5.20. DF: £12.50. CSF: £23.10.

2.00 (2m 4f ch) 1, NORMAN CONQUEROR (S Smith Eccles, 3-1 fav; Thunderer's nap); 2, Man On The Line (L Harvey, 13-2); 3, South Harvest (R Dunwoody, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Super Sense (f), 10 Mister Tickle (4th), 16 Badihar, Dan Manno, 20 Victory Gate, 25 Hickelton Lad (5th), 33 Adelaure (f), Mr Diplomatic, Pat Cullen (6th), Villa Park (ur), Wiltshire Yeoman (pu). 14 ran. 2l, 6l, 3l, 15l, 12l. T Thomson Jones at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.80; £1.70, £1.80, £2.10. DF: £7.10. CSF: £21.48.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, TRAVALDO (R Dunwoody, 7-4 fav); 2, Peaceman (J Shortt, 9-1); 3, Polydeuces (J Kavanagh, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Rocco (4th), 6 Laundryman, 13-2 Crooked Counsel (5th), 10 Top Javalin, 12 Will She Wont She, 16 Pop A Pringle, Roxton Hill, 25 Spikey (f), 33 Bedford Boy (pu), 50 Artificer, Blue Missile (pu), Golden Moss (6th), Sometime (pu). 16 ran. 7l, hd, nk, 1½l, 5l. N Henderson at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.80; £1.40, £3.00, £21.00. DF: £17.60. CSF: £19.13. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

3.00 (3m ch) 1, FOYLE FISHERMAN (E Murphy, 7-4); 2, Solidasarock (L Harvey, 7-2); 3, Man O'Magic (M Perrett, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 13-8 fav Vicars Landing (pu). 4 ran. 3l, 8l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.60. DF: £4.50. CSF: £7.28.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, GREEN'S VAN GOYEN (J Osborne, 5-1); 2, Scent Of Battle (J Railton, 50-1); 3, Come Home Alone (S McNeill, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Dante's View (5th), 100-30 Equity Card, 8 Statajack, 10 Rival Bid, Trembalino, 16 Madraj (6th), Our Slimbridge, 20 Trojan Envoy, Prince Tino, 33 Marsh Warbler (bd), 50 Antico Nativo, Dancing Paddy (4th), Diddey, Loon, Anne's Bank, Peggotty (f), Shy Maiden. 20 ran. 2½l, sh hd, nk, 5l, 1l. R Akehurst at Epsom. Tote: £8.00; £2.40, £23.20, £8.30. DF: £2,227.20. CSF: £229.68.

Jackpot not won. Pool of £1,153.85 carried forward to Newbury tomorrow.

Placepot: £3,034.40.

Kelso

Going: good to firm

1.05 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Gale Again (A Merrigan, 4-9 fav; Mandarin's nap & Handicapper's top rating); 2, Westwell Boy (7-1); 3, Lothian Rose (7-1). 11 ran. 6l, 1½l. W A Stephenson. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.90, £1.40. DF: £6.60. CSF: £4.36.

1.35 (2m 196yd ch) 1, Achiltibuie (M Moloney, 7-2); 2, Just Frankie (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Her Of Excitement (15-2). Dancing River 9-4 jt-fav. 6 ran. NR: Beldine. 5l, ¾l. G Richards. Tote: £4.50; £2.40, £1.60. DF: £4.40. CSF: £10.77.

2.05 (2m hdle) 1, Rapid Slane (C Grant, 9-4 fav); 2, Hudson Bay Trader (11-4); 3, Pandessa (3-1). 11 ran. 5l, 1½l. W A Stephenson. Tote: £3.40; £1.80, £1.60, £1.10. DF: £5.40. CSF: £8.38. Tricast: £16.49. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

2.35 (2m 6f ch) 1, Jodami (Mrs A Farrell, 4-5 fav); 2, Polibrog (33-1); 3, Intarsia (66-1). 6 ran. 3l, 12l. P Beaumont. Tote: £1.90; £1.60, £2.70. DF: £19.80. CSF: £18.02.

3.05 (2m 6f ch) 1, Dalkey Sound (P Niven, 5-4 fav); 2, J-J-Henry (6-1); 3, Lothian Captain (2-1). 4 ran. 3l, 1½l. Mrs G Reveley. Tote: £1.90. DF: £4.50. CSF: £7.42.

3.35 (2m hdle) 1, Logamimo (A Orkney, 4-11 fav); 2, Landalo (4-1); 3, Al Frolic (5-1). 3 ran. NR: Sweet City. ¾l, 25l. J Hellens. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.12.

Placepot: £23.00.

☐ The David Elsworth-trained Mougins (Cash Asmussen) finished a disappointing fourth behind the German juvenile Litron in the Prix des Chenes at Evry yesterday.

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aica, diplomatic sources said. (Reuter)

interim. Tough negotiations are expected on both issues.

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TENNIS

Protesters disrupt South Africa's return to the fold

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa suffered a setback to its sporting reforms yesterday when demonstrators disrupted the opening match in the ATP Doubles championship here.

The $1 million, eight-man event was to have marked the return of the republic to international tennis after two years. But delight quickly turned to embarrassment for Tennis South Africa (TSA), the new representative body of South African tennis, and the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP). The players were forced from the court by a shower of pellets thrown by a group of about 30 young black supporters of the Coloured Tennis Association of South Africa (TASA).

Despite several advance warnings of disruption by TASA, who have not been included in the TSA, the youths evaded the security guards and chanted slogans at one end of the court for about ten minutes. It was not until some members of the public decided to take the law into their own hands that they were finally evicted.

The group then re-formed outside the Ellis Park indoor stadium and, after confrontations with TSA administrators, including Johann Barnard, the vice-president, were peacefully dispersed by the South African police.

Chris Ngcobo, the president of TSA, said that security arrangements had been deliberately kept low-key to avoid confrontation.

"There was not meant to be heavy security because that would give the demonstrators a credibility they just do not have," Ngcobo said. "We will have to review the security, but we expect no further problems."

The disturbance came midway through the third set between the Canadian pair of Grant Connell and Glen Michibata, and Todd Witsken and Pat Galbraith, of the United States. Connell and Michibata were leading 4-3.

At the first signs of disruption the players, who had been briefed about potential trouble by tournament officials, left the court and went back to the locker-room. "We didn't feel in any danger," Connell said. "I think they were hard seeds, and someone said they landed quite near me, but I didn't see them."

But the incident must have heightened the fears of the ATP, who have scheduled two more tournaments besides this Standard Bank-sponsored doubles championship for Johannesburg next year, and the tennis authorities, who have sanctioned South Africa's return to the Davis Cup and the Federation Cup.

"The safety of our players and the public is of paramount importance and we will have to monitor the situation very closely," Mark Miles, chief executive of the ATP, said. "It is not likely that we will be reviewing our decision to stage more tournaments yet, but I will be interested in plans for future security at this tournament."

The demonstrators' complaints stem from the decision by the International Tennis Federation and the National Olympic Committee of South Africa to ratify the TSA, even though only the white and black representative bodies have been included.

"The time is not right to have a unified body because there is no unity in tennis." Jackie Van Stade, a Coloured player, from Transvaal, said. "The only reason this came so fast was to get international tournaments here."

When play did resume, Connell and Michibata completed a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 victory over the Americans, but, yet again, politics, not sport, ruled the day.

Sabatini rallies to regain control

From BARRY WOOD IN NEW YORK

GABRIELA Sabatini overcame a slight wobble to defeat Katerina Maleeva 6-2, 7-6 in the first round of the Virginia Slims championships.

There were wins, too, for Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario, who overcame Zina Garrison 4-6, 6-1, 6-0, and Mary Joe Fernandez, who progressed when Helena Sukova withdrew in tears at 2-2 in the final set after straining a hamstring.

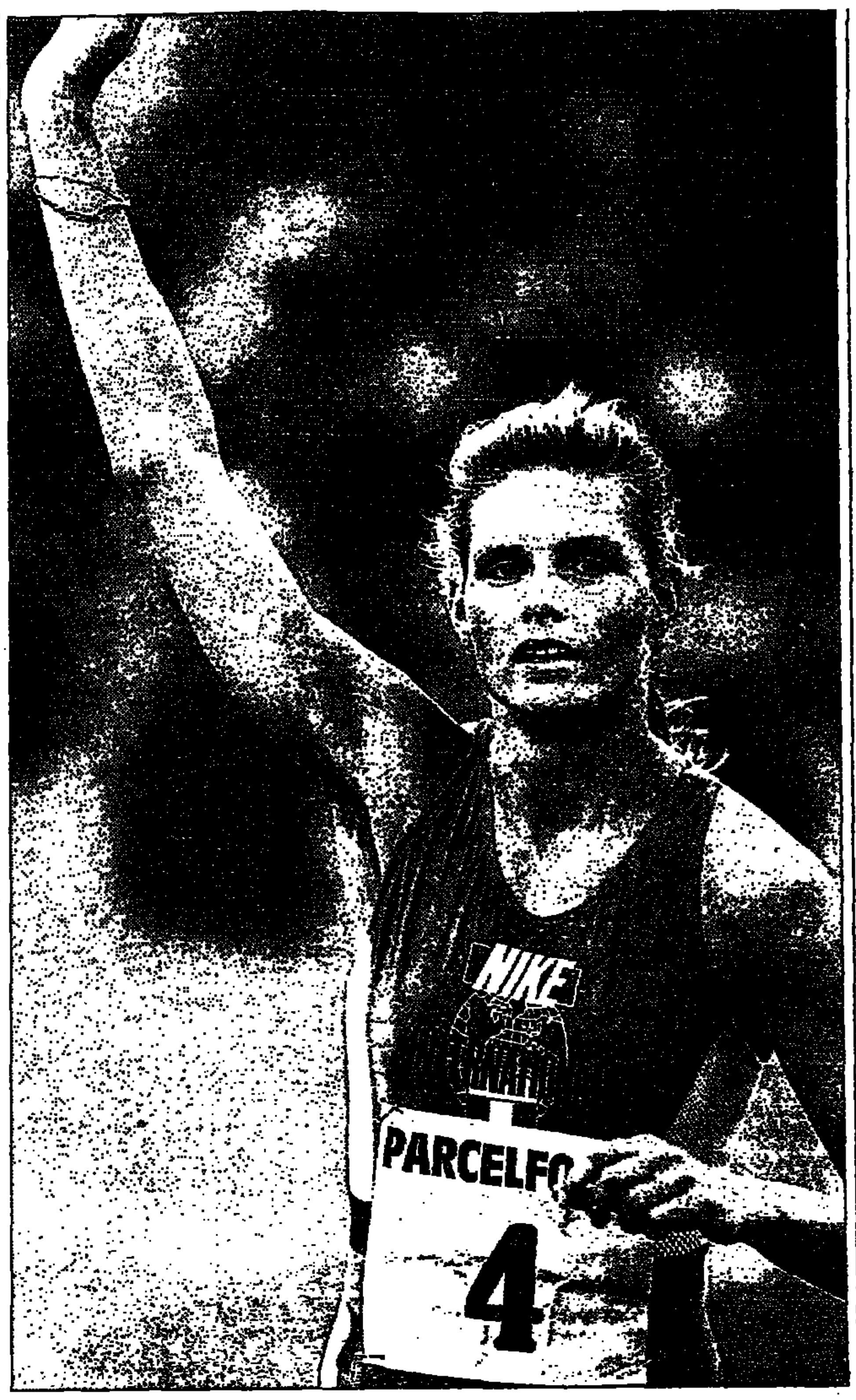
Sabatini never dominated her Bulgarian opponent, and, though she twice served for the match in the second set, she found herself down 4-1 in the tie-break. Had Sabatini lost that, Maleeva might well have succeeded, for she was solid from the back of the court and willing to attack, but Sabatini showed a greater command of the net and was more athletic.

Sánchez-Vicario dominated a dispirited Garrison after a superbly-contested first set, during which both players showed intelligence and skill. Their fine running, aggressive baseline rallying and pin-point accuracy provided excellent entertainment, but Garrison was unable to maintain such a high standard against a more resilient opponent.

Monica Seles, meanwhile, has set her sights on an eventual career in Hollywood and has been indulging in acting lessons as well as searching for a house in that part of California. However, before she abandons tennis, there is one ambition she wishes to satisfy.

"I would never want to finish my career without having the four grand slam trophies," she said. The only one to elude her is, of course, Wimbledon; her controversial avoidance of which this year elevated the eccentric Yugoslav from being a mere tennis player to being something of a celebrity.

RESULTS: First round: M J Fernandez (US) bt H Sukova (Cz) 2-6, 7-6, 2-2, retired; A Sánchez-Vicario (Sp) bt Z Garrison (US), 4-6, 6-1, 6-0; G Sabatini (Arg) bt K Maleeva (Bul), 6-2, 7-6



Sprinting to the top: Carl Lewis and Katrin Krabbe, above, the world 100 metres champions, were named by the International Amateur Athletic Federation in Monte Carlo last night as the world athletes of the year (David Powell writes). It is the second time that Lewis has been accorded the honour but Krabbe's first success.

In a poll of more than 1,800 officials, journalists and sponsors, Lewis emerged a narrow winner over Sergey Bubka and Mike Powell. The part Lewis played in two of the greatest athletics competitions in history, the Tokyo world championships 100 metres and long jump, proved too high a card for Bubka's four world pole vault records and world title and Powell's long jump world record and world title.

Lewis, aged 30, won the 100 metres in Tokyo in a world record 9.86sec and, in the long jump, finished a close second to Powell, who broke Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world record. Lewis was also a member of the United States world record breaking four by 100 metres relay team in Tokyo. Lewis was backed by 3,701 points, Bubka 3,642 and Powell 3,427. Britain's best placed athlete in the poll was Kriss Akabusi, 23rd.

Krabbe, aged 21, who overturned the form book to beat Merlene Ottey at both sprints in Tokyo, succeeds Ottey as women's world athlete of the year. Heiki Henkel was third. Liz McColgan, the world 10,000 champion, was Britain's best placed athlete in eighth, though the poll was conducted before her New York Marathon victory on November 3. Krabbe, with 3,959 points, was well ahead of Ottey (3,201) with Henkel, the high jumper, several lengths back on 2,334 points.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Widnes valuation may put Offiah out of the game

By KEITH MACKLIN

MARTIN Offiah is poised to become rugby league's first £1 million transfer, or move into American football. Failing both, he is destined for a further spell in cold storage at Widnes.

When told yesterday he had been listed at a world record asking price of £700,000, the Great Britain wing said: "You're joking!". Offiah forced Widnes to put him on the list by refusing to play for the club this season.

Doug Laughton, the Leeds and former Widnes coach, said: "This is a fencing-in fee designed to keep him at Widnes." Maurice Lindsay the Wigan chairman, said that Wigan wanted to sign Offiah but that the price was "out of everybody's reach".

The fee of £700,000 dwarfs the world record of £250,000, paid by Leeds for Ellery Hanley. Any club signing Offiah would have to spend more than £1 million, including Offiah's contract demands.

If he fails to attract another club, Offiah may carry out the threat issued by both him and Alan McColm, his agent, to accept an offer from an American football club.

John Stringer, the general manager of Widnes, said: "We have done our utmost to keep him and give him generous improved terms, but the situation is now beginning to unsettle all the other players."

The chairman, Jim Mills, said: "We have done our best to protect the principle of the rugby league's contracts system, and we have done everything possible to please him."

Frank Myler, the Widnes coach, said: "It is very sad, but the fee is a realistic one. Martin can be relied on to score 50 tries a season and has another eight years left in him. He would put 2,000 fans on every home crowd."

Offiah has six years of a ten-year contract at Widnes still to run. He has scored 181 tries in 145 matches for Widnes.

☐ A league transfer tribunal has ruled that Halifax must pay London Crusaders a fee of £40,000 for Greg Pearce, the Australian forward, plus 20 per cent of any profit the Yorkshire club makes if Pearce leaves them.

SQUASH RACKETS

Wright continues where she left off

By COLIN McQUILLAN

SUE Wright finished the last domestic season beating Susan Devoy, the world champion, to reach the British Open final. This week, she started the new season with an equally stubborn and surprising win over the junior world champion, Cassandra Jackman, by 2-9, 9-4, 9-2, 5-9, 10-8 in a 62-minute second-string SRA Women's Superleague encounter at Courtlands Park Country Club in Thorpe Bay.

Wright an anonymous summer on the world professional tour, has quietly rejoined the Talking Pages Windsor squad that took last season's title. This week, the former world champion, Martine Le Moignan, beat Liz Irving, the world No. 4 and first string for IMS Courtlands, 6-9, 9-7, 9-2, 9-3. The former junior world champion, Sarah FitzGerald, lost 9-5, 5-9, 9-1, 9-2 to Fiona Geaves at third string.

By the time Jackman had coached Wright off court 9-2 in a five-minute opening game, a home win looked assured for the league leaders, but Wright, aged 21, was to confound expectations. When the match came down to a tie-break in the fifth, it was the junior world champion who snatched and missed and the Talking Pages second-string went home with the points.

RESULTS: IMS Courtlands 1, Talking Pages Windsor [illegible] L Irving lost to M Le Moignan 9-6, 7-9, 2-9, 3-9; C Jackman lost to S Wright 9-2, 4-9, 2-9, 9-6, 8-10; F Geaves bt S FitzGerald 9-5, 5-9, 9-1, 9-2. Lee-on-Solent 3, Manor Priory 0 (Lee-on-Solent [illegible]): L Soutar bt S Langley, 9-2, 9-4, [illegible]; [illegible] 9-2, 9-6, 9-5; C [illegible] bt J Dimmock 9-2, 9-1, 9-4. League positions: IMS Courtlands 7pts, Lee-on-Solent 7, Bostock Nottingham 5, Talking Pages Windsor 5, Manor Priory 0.

IN BRIEF

Riders to be richly rewarded

Prize-money exceeding £100,000, the most offered at a three-day event, will be provided at next year's Badminton Horse Trials from May 7to 10 by the new sponsor, Mitsubishi.

The winner will receive a silver trophy worth £15,000 as well as a £20,000 cash prize.

Golf scholarships

Golf: The Wentworth club is to provide scholarships for ten promising juniors to be coached by Bernard Gallacher under a five-year scheme that will run in tandem with a similar project for young tennis players. The club is planning to spend £200,000.

Most valuable

Baseball: The hard-hitting Baltimore Orioles shortstop, Cal Ripken Jr, has been named most-valuable player in the American League for the second time.

Halves reunited

Rugby Union: The Italian World Cup halves, Diego Dominguez and Ivan Francescato, will play for M R Steele-Bodger's XV against Cambridge University next Wednesday.

TEAM: I Hunter (Northampton), F Clough (Wasps and England), C Innes (Bedford and New Zealand), W Little (Rugby and New Zealand), S Halliday (Harlequins and England); D Dominguez (Milano and Italy), I Francescato (Milano and Italy), M Linnett (Moseley and England), M Barry (Old Gravesendians and North Auckland), G Holmes (Wasps), M Bayfield (Northampton and England), N Edwards (Harlequins), D Pegler (London Irish), N Back (Leicester), R Pool-Jones (Biarritz)

Bayonne venue

Tennis: France and Great Britain will play their 1992 Davis Cup world group first-round tie in Bayonne, from January 31 to February 2.

Lomas shines

Table Tennis: Another good performance by Lisa Lomas, who took Li Bun Hui the distance, provided consolation for England in their 3-0 defeat against North Korea in the TSP World Team Cup in Barcelona.

SPORTS LETTERS

Drawbacks of all-seat stadium

From Mr John Chapman

Sir, Following the recommendations of the Home Affairs Committee last February and of the FA's own "Blueprint for the Future of Football", I am concerned that these reports seem not to have been acted upon or to have influenced the government's position regarding all-seat stadiums.

This in turn has meant that the Football Licensing Authority, which issues ground safety certificates, continues with the view that it will not do so for premier league and second division grounds unless the Taylor report recommendation, that they are all-seat, has been complied with.

Those campaigning against all-seat stadiums support the need for improved spectator facilities. However, terraced areas changed to seated accommodation have proved to be inadequate, often crammed into too small a space, giving little leg-room between the seats and an unsatisfactory view over the person in front because the terrace rake has not been changed. In addition, seats have led and will lead to increased admission prices for terrace supporters.

Clubs, therefore, will be denied support, both because of smaller ground capacities and higher admission charges, which will price out some supporters, especially families from where the game's next generation of supporters would come. The unique banter and camaraderie, to which terrace supporters will testify as being part of their enjoyment in attending matches, should also not be dismissed as a sentimentalist view but is a practical reason for a supporter's affinity to the game.

Further thought should be given to relaxing the present policy. The money saved from its non-introduction for second division clubs could then be used to upgrade and increase the capacity of the grounds of clubs that qualify for Europe and need to comply with Uefa regulations. Those grounds will in future be inadequate to satisfy the number of supporters likely to want to attend the matches.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHAPMAN,
184 Putteridge Road,
Luton, Bedfordshire.

Council funds

From the Director General of the Sports Council

Sir, David Miller (November 16) suggests that the government has provided the Sports Council with funds to enable us to make accommodation available in London for the Commonwealth Games Federation.

This, unfortunately, is the opposite of the true situation. The Department of Education and Science has actually advised the Sports Council that its grant aid cannot be used to fund international sports federations located in Britain.

The Sports Council, however, is extremely keen to retain as many international bodies of sport within the UK as possible. In the absence of government support, therefore, and mindful of the nature of the discussion that was about to take place among the Commonwealth heads of state in Harare, we — not the government — offered to find from the Sports Council Trust Company (the charitable arm of the Sports Council which generates its won income) funds to provide the Commonwealth Games Federation with accommodation.

We very much hope, however, that the government will take an early opportunity to remedy the restrictive legislation that prevents our normal grant from being used for this important purpose.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID PICKUP,
Director General,
Sports Council,
16 Upper Woburn Place, WC1.

Promoters should pay NHS

From Miss Elizabeth Cleland

Sir, Following the latest brain injury to a boxer the British Boxing Board of Control has announced (report, November 15), "tough new measures to protect injured professional boxers". Among these are "an alert to the accident, emergency and neurosurgical units of the nearest hospital".

In view of the huge sums of money involved in many promotions, I suggest that a percentage of the takings be donated to the neurosurgical unit of the nearest hospital expected to provide these facilities. A further donation to a head injury charity would also be appropriate.

Neurosurgery is a very expensive speciality, involving long-term intensive care, followed by longer-term intensive rehabilitation. I find it outrageous that it is perfectly legal to pay two people to bash each other's brains out, and then expect the hard-pressed NHS to pick up the tab while the organisers pick up a hefty profit.

Furthermore, may the general (non-boxing) public be assured that, should the limited beds in the local neurosurgical unit be required for the treatment of recent victims of car crashes, etc., the tournament will be cancelled to ensure 24-hour availability of facilities for the local public?

Yours sincerely,
E. G. CLELAND,
Downhouse,
Milton Abbot,
Devon.

Players supported

From Miss Danielle Lewis and Mr Philip Veasey

Sir, We read with disappointment Mr David Partridge's letter (November 15), in which he criticised various bodies for not funding one of Britain's top deaf tennis players, Sidney Falconer, to attend a tournament in Italy.

This was, however, very much a social tournament, played on an individual basis, and which most players treat as a holiday.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Trust takes great pride in providing the opportunity for people with varying backgrounds to play tennis — able-bodied, both young and old, and those physically and mentally challenged.

The year 1991 has been important for deaf tennis in Britain and both the men's and women's national teams played in the deaf world championships held in this country. This was the culmination of a year's hard work and practice by the players, overseen and funded by the LTA Trust with contributions from the British Deaf Sports Council.

The amount of money given to each of the 12 players in the squad (which includes Falconer), in terms of coaching, kit, travel and accommodation during the year, would leave little change from £1,000 per player.

The LTA Trust has also secured support from the Gemini Foundation for the next three years for the squad, which will help to send the top players all over the world in team competition.

So keen are the squad members to put back something into tennis that there are firm plans for demonstrations encouraging more of the deaf community to play tennis — supported by the Sports Council, LTA Trust, British Sports Association for the Disabled and British Deaf Sports Council.

Yours sincerely,
DANIELLE LEWIS
(Liaison — Tennis Players with Disabilities),
PHILIP VEASEY
(National Deaf Team Coach),
The LTA Trust,
The Queen's Club,
West Kensington, W14.

Different values

From Mr A. Macpherson

Sir, I welcome the IRFB's recommendation of a five-point try (report, November 7) in an attempt to promote more fluent attacking rugby. However, this ruling could have the unfortunate consequence of increasing the number of penalties conceded, as they would be worth proportionally less.

A way of preventing this would be to allow penalties to be taken in front of the posts, wheresoever the offence occurred. Players will no longer risk giving away penalties far from the posts in order to stop a try being scored, particularly at junior level where long kicks are often missed.

Yours sincerely,
ALEXANDER MACPHERSON,
58 Luttrell Avenue, SW15.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046.

MOTOR SPORT

Kankkunen adds vital finish

By STEPHEN SLATER

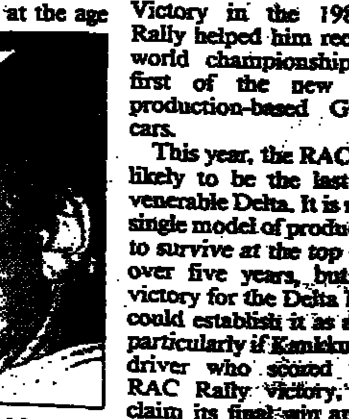
UNTIL last week, Juha Kankkunen was looking forward to maintaining his title as the fastest of the "Flying Finns" and attempting his third victory in the Lombard RAC Rally, which he won in 1986 and 1987. However, the retirement of his world championship rival, Carlos Sainz, the Toyota driver, on the Catalonia rally in Spain has given Kankkunen and the Lancia team a final chance to bid for the world championship title when the cars leave Harrogate on Sunday.

If Sainz had won his home event, he would have become the champion, but now British followers face the added excitement of a spectacular finale to the world rally championship and, for the second successive time, a titanic contest between Kankkunen and Sainz in the Lombard RAC event.

Last year, the two drivers were never more than 22 seconds apart until, running first on the road, Kankkunen hit a patch of black ice in Keilder Forest and crashed as Sainz went on to win. However, the Finn, aged 32, thinks that this year things may go differently.

One of the secrets of Kankkunen's success is his versatility. His first world championship win, at the age of 24, was on the gruelling Safari Rally in East Africa, a victory he repeated again this year. He won his first world championship in 1986 in one of the fearsome Group B Peugeot 205 T16 cars, but the following year, ultra-fast vehicles were banned on safety grounds and Kankkunen switched to a Lancia Delta. Victory in the 1987 RAC Rally helped him reclaim the world championship in the first of the new line of production-based Group A cars.

This year, the RAC event is likely to be the last for the venerable Delta. It is rare for a single model of production car to survive at the top level for over five years, but a final victory for the Delta Integrale could establish it as a classic, particularly if Kankkunen, the driver who scored its first RAC Rally victory, was to claim its final win and again take the world crown.



Kankkunen: twin title goal

HOCKEY

Cambridge's cohesion pays better dividends

Cambridge University 3
London University.......... 1

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

CAMBRIDGE University resisted a spirited challenge by London to secure their first victory in the Pizza Express London League at Coldhams Common yesterday.

London, however, put Cambridge under enough pressure to earn eight short corners, but were able to convert only one. Cambridge showed better understanding with Lloyd setting up the attacks.

Cambridge went ahead in the tenth minute from a penalty stroke, which Bolgar converted after Lloyd was impeded at a short corner. Lloyd set up a chance for Carver to score Cambridge's second goal in the 48th minute. Johnston scored for London after a series of short corners; Hermel saved a penalty from Bolgar before Carver scored his second for Cambridge two minutes from the end.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: C Bilshen (King Edward VI, Southampton and St John's); A Smart (Millfield and Hughes Hall), M Wight (King's College, Wimbledon and Trinity Hall), A Walther (Frankfurt University and Trinity), J Willy (Millfield and Trinity), M Carver (King Edward VI, Southampton and Corpus Christi), *J McCormick (Auckland GS and Corpus Christi), *P Harvey (Vandean Vth Form College and St Catherine's), J Arscott (Tonbridge and Magdalene), *R Lloyd (Hitchin Boys School and St John's), D Bolgar (Bedford and Homerton)
LONDON UNIVERSITY: B Hermel (John F Kennedy School, Berlin and Goldsmiths), B Goffinet (Region and UCL), *J De La Hay (Sherborne and UCL), T Turner (Westcliffe and King's), *G Lewis (Haileybury and Soas), D Martin (Southend HS and UCL), Sarbjit Bhorjee (Highfield School, Wolverhampton and King's), Ajnta Reginald (Rugby and London Hospital), J Simpson (Loughborough GS and UCL), *S Wyke (Millfield and KMC; sub: P Achen, Millfield and St Bartholomew's Hospital), M Johnston (The Leys and UCL).
Umpires: M Brook and M Hudson (Eastern Counties).

* a blue or purple

British teams face tough Olympic test

THE Great Britain men and women face strong group opposition in the Olympic Games tournament starting at Barcelona on July 25 (Sydney Friskin writes).

In the men's event, Britain's main obstacles will be Australia and Germany, although neither country was able to defeat Britain in the recent Champions Trophy tournament in Berlin.

Britain's women also face a daunting prospect against the Netherlands, New Zealand and South Korea, who were runners-up in 1988 to Australia although in the recent qualifying tournament in Auckland the Koreans finished fifth, behind Britain.

MEN: Group A: Argentina, Australia, Britain, Egypt, Germany, India. Group B: Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Soviet Union, Spain. Women: Group A: Australia, Canada, Germany, Spain. Group B: Britain, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea.

Manchester United pay tribute to flair of Yugoslavs after claiming European Super Cup

Red Star illuminate English decline

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE decline in English standards, which has been particularly evident during this season's undistinguished first division programme, has recently been cast in an ominously sharp light. Within the last fortnight, two of the principal contenders for the League title have been outclassed in their own homes by foreign opposition.

Arsenal, the champions, were markedly inferior to Benfica in the European Cup and were beaten, albeit in extra time, 3-1 at Highbury. Manchester United, the Cup Winners' Cup holders, who have already been eliminated from the competition, were similarly overshadowed by Red Star Belgrade at Old Trafford on Tuesday night.

Although United won the continental version of the Charity Shield, Alex Ferguson graciously accepted that his side was flattered by the 1-0 victory. The celebrations were muted because he recognised that most of the "wonderful football" presented to a half-empty stadium was played by the reigning champions of Europe.

That, considering the circumstances, was a remarkable tribute to Red Star's natural gifts. Since they won the trophy in a miserably negative final against Marseilles six months ago, they have lost half of their side and their manager, as well as the opportunity to work in normal conditions.

"Yugoslavia is one of the nations which can produce world-class players," Ferguson said. "They've been doing it ever since I was a boy. You can play against 11 in one game, a completely changed 11 in the next, and you wouldn't be able to notice the difference.

"They have individuals who can reach peaks to compare with anybody in the world." He was referring specifically to Savicevic, as complete a midfield player as Isaias, the Brazilian who almost single-handedly knocked Arsenal out of the European Cup by scoring three of Benfica's four goals.

Savicevic, though only 24, promises to be Yugoslavia's leading figure in the European championship finals next summer. Quick, elegant and inventive, he is regarded by Red Star's manager as more influential than even Prosinecki and Stojkovic, former club colleagues who are now with Real Madrid and Verona respectively.

"Our game and Yugoslavia's depends on him," Vladimir Popovic said. He fears, though, that Savicevic and the prolific Pancev will at the end of the season be persuaded to join the exiles. Among the interested purchasers, AC Milan are reported to be prepared to pay £10 million or more for them.

By chance, their qualities will be on parade in Italy in Sampdoria next week when Red Star continue their defence of the European Cup, a trophy once considered almost the exclusive property of English clubs. The evidence suggests that it is no longer realistically within reach.

The technique of Arsenal and United has been shown to be inadequate. The same flaw will surely be apparent not only when England compete for the European title in June, but also when the domestic champions enter the European Cup next season.

Keeping a firm grasp: Bruce, left, and Schmeichel parade with the cup at Old Trafford after Tuesday's game

OLYMPIC GAMES

IAAF attempts to have Reynolds appeal overruled

From DAVID MILLER IN MONTE CARLO

AN APPLICATION by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) to the United States Independent Arbitration Panel to overrule a successful appeal by Butch Reynolds on his suspension for a positive drugs test is expected to be heard in January.

Failure by the IAAF will throw the sport into crisis.

Details emerged, before the International Athletics Foundation's annual gala awards dinner here yesterday, of the grounds on which the drugs control review board of The Athletics Congress (TAC), the governing body of the sport in the United States, upheld the Reynolds appeal.

The IAAF's legal advisers are understood to be confident that the TAC review board will be overruled.

Should the IAAF fail, it can expect Reynolds, the 400 metres world record holder, who tested positive at the Monaco grand prix on August 12, 1990, to file lawsuits for millions of dollars for defamation, restraint of trade, and lost endorsements.

The decision of the Independent Arbitration Panel, composed of international lawyers, is critical to the IAAF's fight against drugs and to its authority as world governing body.

If the application fails, serious doubt will be cast on Dr Manfred Dönike, of Germany, one of the foremost scientists in the drug testing programme, whose evidence was questioned by TAC's review board.

The credentials of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) medical comission will also be badly undermined.

TAC's review board, consisting of Clifford Wiley, Timothy Baker and Charles Greene, allowed Reynolds's appeal not on any single issue but general doubt on the following aspects:

☐ Chain of custody (ie security between Monaco stadium and Paris laboratory).

☐ Alleged inadequate sealing of A and B samples.

☐ Alleged confusion between the identified banned drug, Nandrolone, and derivitives.

☐ A negative test only a week later at a subsequent meeting.

☐ Alleged discrepancy between sample seals as witnessed separately in Monaco and Paris.

The IAAF sees no possibility of its established system being challenged under the first two points, though the third, which questions the analytical skills of Dönike and team, appears to be the most significant.

The fourth point is irrelevant, and the fifth is dependent only on Reynolds's uncorroborated memory.

Palace unable to shake off third division battlers

By LOUISE TAYLOR

CRYSTAL Palace and Birmingham City will need a third attempt to resolve their third-round Rumbelows Cup tie. They drew for the second time — 1-1 after extra time — in a replay at Selhurst Park on Tuesday night.

First division made heavy weather of holding third division as Nigel Gleghorn provided Birmingham with a lead in extra time, before Palace were rescued by a diving header from Geoff Thomas with three minutes remaining.

With Marco Gabbiadini, Palace's £1.8 million signing from Sunderland, once again disappointing in attack, it was hard to believe that the first division's fifth-placed side was unbeaten in its eight previous matches.

Palace will stage the second replay at Selhurst at a date to be announced. Thomas, their captain and an England international midfield player, said: "It was a funny performance, but our spirit was good. In some games, you have to battle and we are capable of scrapping if we need to.

"Against Birmingham, we still have a hell of a fight on our hands. With the players they have up front, they are always going to give us problems, and it is no surprise that they are challenging for the third division championship.

"I thought we were a bit too confident to begin with, that we were trying things that didn't come off, but sometimes the results are more important than the performance. We are still well placed in the League and the Rumbelows Cup. We can do well in both."

Stuart Pearce, the England left back, illuminated Tuesday night's northern area quarter-final of the Zenith Data Systems Cup against **Aston Villa** at Villa Park with one of his characteristic fierce free kicks, which supplied **Nottingham Forest** with a first-half lead.

Ian Woan doubled that advantage after the interval against a below-strength Villa team, leaving Forest in the semi-finals, although Pearce will be unhappy about the booking he collected in the second half.

Blackpool overtook Burnley to move into third place in the fourth division by virtue of a 4-0 win at home to Wrexham, who have failed to win away from home for 14 months.

Sinclair, aged 19, and the veteran, Bamber, both scored twice. Barnet stay top of the division with Mansfield Town in second place.

Leicester to let Kelly go

DAVID Kelly is poised to join Sunderland for £300,000 today (Louise Taylor writes). The Republic of Ireland international forward was finalising personal terms with Denis Smith, the manager of the second division club last night, and is expected to attempt to revive a once abundantly promising career at Roker Park.

Aged 26, Kelly previously played for Walsall, his home-town club, and West Ham United, joining Leicester City after he failed to make an impact at Upton Park. After starting this season brightly he has spent the last few matches in the reserves.

☐ Mick Quinn, the Newcastle United forward, is hoping to return to the first team next month after having the plaster removed on his knee injury yesterday.

Supporters urged to back St John's

By LOUISE TAYLOR

WITHOUT them there would be no football matches. By coping with anything and everything from grazed knees to heart attacks, the St John Ambulance Brigade fulfils the statutory requirement of providing first-aid cover at football grounds.

Few supporters realise that it is an entirely voluntary organisation; St John's members receive no payment for their hours of training or for their vital services.

Now the Football League has asked clubs to allow members of the Brigade to make collections at the 84 grounds they serve on the next two Saturdays — November 23 and 30.

The League and some clubs help the Brigade financially, but more is needed. Stretchers cost £70 each, ambulances £30,000. Gary Lineker, the England captain, said: "The football community is looked after by St John volunteers — let's look after them in return by digging deep to support their appeal."

Brian Clough, Ron Atkinson, Steve Coppell, Alex Ferguson, George Graham, Howard Kendall, Peter Shreeves and Graeme Souness are among the managers supporting the St John days. Clough said: "These volunteers support football with crucial first-aid cover."

Some less typical problems the volunteers encounter inside grounds include crushed feet — even well-mannered police horses can make mistakes; dislocations — caused by supporters raising arms when their team scores; scalding — prompted by a jolted elbow just as a piping hot flask of coffee is poured.

CRICKET

Crowd trouble as West Indies win

Karachi — The West Indies completed an easy 24-run victory over Pakistan yesterday in the first one-day international of their tour amid turbulent scenes at the National Stadium here.

Play was halted several times by pitch invasions and when it became clear Pakistan were going to lose, some of the crowd began pelting the West Indies fielders with missiles. Anderson Cummins was hit on the shoulder by a piece of a chair and was off the field in the closing overs.

West Indies made 170 for six as Pakistan managed to bowl only 34 of the scheduled 40 overs in the allotted time. The most important partnership was one of 68 in 13 overs for the third wicket between Haynes and Lara, the latter winning the man-of-the-match award for his innings of 54.

Javed Miandad was the only Pakistani to play a solid innings, scoring 31 as the home side were bundled out for 146 in 33.5 overs. They were undermined by two run-outs which accounted for opener Aamer Sohail and Salim Malik. Hooper took four for 34. *(Reuter)*

WEST INDIES

D L Haynes lbw b Mushtaq	45
P A Wallace b Mushtaq	22
*R B Richardson b Aqib	2
B C Lara c Miandad b Akram	54
C L Hooper c Mushtaq b Akram	17
K L T Arthurton b Akram	4
†D Williams not out	5
I R Bishop not out	3
Extras (lb 10, nb 3, w 5)	18
Total (6 wkts, 34 overs)	170

C E L Ambrose, A C Cummins and B P Patterson did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-55, 2-58, 3-126, 4-152, 5-156, 6-167.

BOWLING: Imran Khan 8-1-30-0; Wasim Akram 6-0-27-3; Aqib Javed 7-0-38-1; Mushtaq Ahmed 8-0-43-2; Waqar Younis 5-0-22-0

PAKISTAN

Aamer Sohail run out	1
Ramiz Raja c Williams b Patterson	11
Zahid Fazal c Lara b Patterson	17
Salim Malik run out	16
Javed Miandad c Richardson b Ambrose	31
*Imran Khan c Arthurton b Hooper	15
Wasim Akram st Williams b Hooper	0
†Moin Khan c Richardson b Ambrose	18
Mushtaq Ahmed c Bishop b Hooper	6
Waqar Younis not out	11
Aqib Javed b Hooper	2
Extras (lb 5, nb 5, w 8)	18
Total (33.5 overs)	146

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-25, 3-45, 4-57, 5-62, 6-62, 7-119, 8-129, 9-134.

BOWLING: Bishop 6-2-23-0; Ambrose 7-0-28-2; Patterson 8-0-29-2; Cummins 5-0-27-0; Hooper 7.5-0-34-4.

Umpires: Khizer Hayat and Riazuddin.

RUGBY UNION

Administrator sought to awake sleeping giant

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

COVENTRY, one of the giants of English rugby during the 1950s and 1960s but a second division club for four of the five seasons of league rugby, have advertised for a paid rugby manager — though they are willing to wait to ensure that they choose the best available candidate.

Since they were relegated from the first division in 1988, Coventry have teetered on the brink of a return. A fifth place and two fourths suggest, at least, consistency, though this season's youthful team — Julian Hyde, the former England Colts lock, is captain at the age of 24 — may be hard pressed to sustain that standard.

But the need for a full-time administrator was brought home to Coventry at the start of the season by the enforced resignation of their honorary playing administrator, Tony Hunt, because of changed business priorities.

"What we are doing now is testing the water, to see what the quality is in the market place," John Butler, the club's spokesman, said. "We are not interested in merely making an appointment, but if the right candidate came along we would be prepared to make the necessary arrangements.

"The response so far has been quite encouraging, but we are mindful of the sort of problems that Bristol and Moseley have encountered."

Clubs such as Coventry have the advantage of learning from those who introduced professional administrators, who can expect to command annual salaries of £25,000 and upwards. Coventry are understood to be willing to offer in the area of £30,000.

Inevitably, Alex Wyllie will be associated with them, since the former New Zealand flanker, who has a daughter studying in England, spent two months coaching there early in 1990 and is expected to step down as coach of the All Blacks this year.

SCHWEPPES CUP: Fourth round draw: Aberavon v Garndiffaith, Bethesda v Fleur de Lys, Gowerton v Abergavenny, Abertillery v Haverfordwest, Merthyr v Kidwelly; Llanharan v Cross Keys, St Peter's v Tenby United; Pontypool United v Tredegar; Ammanford v South Wales Police; Pyle v Ystradgynlais, Ebbw Vale v Dunvant; Glamorgan Wanderers v Penarth; Rumney v Llandaff; Cilfynydd v Blaina, RTB Ebbw Vale v Cardiff HSOB, Tondu v Tumble; Oakdale v Abercarn, Treorchy v Pontarddulais; Felinfoel v Blackwood; Pencoed v Morriston; Llantwit Fardre v Talywain, Mountain Ash v Newcastle Emlyn. *Ties to be played on December 21.*

Wyllie: due to step down

SNOOKER

Davis enjoys the long-haul game

STEVE Davis, a dominant force in the UK Open since he captured the first of his six titles in 1980, enhanced an already impressive record in the tournament by beating Eddie Charlton 9-4 in the fifth round at Preston yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Davis has won 56 of his 62 matches in an event he regards as the most important on the circuit, with the obvious exception of the Embassy world championship.

He has appeared in nine finals and the clue to his remarkable success rate lies in the tournament's format; best of 17-frame matches from the outset, rather than best of nine, which has become a general rule.

"Long-distance games always bring out the best in the best players," Davis said. "They give a better guideline to who is playing the quality stuff. If you get a shock it really is a shock."

Davis, the world No. 2, who won four of the five frames in the concluding session after leading Charlton 5-3 overnight, is likely to meet James Wattana, of Thailand, for a place in the quarter-finals.

Wattana compiled breaks of 103, 64, 45 and 57 as he established a 6-2 lead over Alain Robidoux, the French-Canadian.

Tony Jones, winner of the European Open eight months ago yet still largely a anonymous figure, will feature in the last 16 for the first time as a result of his 9-2 win over Billy Snaddon, a first-season professional from Stirling.

FIFTH ROUND RESULTS: D Reynolds (Eng) bt D O'Kane (NZ), 9-4; S Davis (Eng) bt E Charlton (Aus), 9-4; S Newbury (Wales) bt R Lawler (Eng), 9-6; A Jones (Eng) bt W Snaddon (Scot), 9-2. Matches in progress: G Wilkinson (Eng) leads A Drago (Malta), 5-3; J W Thorne (Eng) leads D Taylor (N Ire), 5-3; J Wattana (Thai) leads A Robidoux (Can), 6-2; N Bond (Eng) level with J Prince (N Ire), 4-4

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: Swindon 3, Charlton 0.

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE: President's Cup: Second round: Barnet 10, Aldershot 1.

CLIFTON STOCKBROKERS LEAGUE: Plymouth Argyle 1, Cardiff City 0; Torquay United 0, Bristol City 1.

ITALIAN LEAGUE: AC Milan 1, Genoa 1.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group eight: Sweden 3, Greece 1

Late results on Tuesday

EUROPEAN SUPER CUP: Manchester United 1, Red Star Belgrade 0.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Fourth division: Blackpool 4, Wrexham 0.

RUMBELOWS CUP: Third-round replay: Crystal Palace 1, Birmingham City 1 (aet).

ZENITH DATA SYSTEMS CUP: Northern area: Quarter-final: Aston Villa 0, Nottingham Forest 2.

AUTOGLASS TROPHY: Preliminary round: Northern section: Bradford City 3, Hartlepool United 3; Burnley 2, Doncaster Rovers 0; Bury 2, Halifax Town 2; Carlisle United 4, Stockport County 0; Crewe Alexandra 2, Chester City 1; Huddersfield Town 1, Scarborough 1; Preston North End 2, Bolton Wanderers 1. Southern section: Barnet 3, Aldershot 0; Shrewsbury Town 1, Lincoln City 0; Swansea City 0, Cardiff City 0; Torquay United 0, Hereford United 1.

B AND Q SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Hibernian 0, Rangers 3. First division: Ayr United 0, Hamilton Academical 2; Clydebank 0, Partick Thistle 0; Dundee 0, Meadowbank Thistle 0; Morton 0, Kilmarnock 1; Raith Rovers 2, Montrose 1. Second division: Forfar Athletic 0, Stirling Albion 0;

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Grays 3, Aylesbury 3; St Albans 6, Harrow 0. First division: Abingdon Town 2, Barking 2. Postponed: Dorking v Chalfont St Peter; Maidenhead United v Leyton Wingate. Second division: Barton 2, Saffron Walden Town 3; Metropolitan Police 1, Billericay 2; Ware 1, Berkhamsted 1; Witham 4, Southall 0. Postponed: Egham v Southwick; Malden Vale v Purfleet. Third division: Camberley 3, Horsham 1; Chertsey 2, Hertford 0. Postponed: Eastbourne v Hampton. League Cup: Hayes 1, Yeading 0; Marlow 3, Windsor and Eton 4 (aet); Woking 4, Rainham 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromsgrove 1, Burton 1; Dorchester 2, Trowbridge 2; Gravesend 4, Fisher 2. Southern division: Andover 0, Gosport Borough 0; Baldock 0, Sudbury 3; Braintree 1, Bury 3; Sittingbourne 0, Buckingham 3. Postponed: Ashford v Margate; Erith and Belvedere v Dunstable; Newport (IoW) v Weymouth. Midland division: Bedworth 0, Rushden 0; Grantham 0, Sutton Coldfield 2; Stroud 5, Alvechurch 2. Postponed: Newport AFC v Redditch Utd; RC Warwick v Dudley Town.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: First division: Knowsley 3, Workington 1; Rhyl 1, Winsford 2.

CAPITAL LEAGUE: Southend 0, Crystal Palace 2.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Elmore v Minehead.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Harwich and Parkeston 5, Brantham Athletic 2; Watton 1, Newmarket 0. Postponed: Felixstowe v Halstead.

NORTHERN LEAGUE CUP: Esh Winning 0, Gretna 6.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Coventry 1, Rotherham 1. Second division: Derby 0, Stoke 4; Notts County 1, Grimsby 0; Wigan 0, Middlesbrough 3.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group one: France 2, Iceland 1 (in Rouen); Group five: Belgium 0, Germany 3 (in Genk).

SWISS LEAGUE: St Gallen 0, FC Zurich 2. Leading positions (after 19 matches): 1, Lausanne, 29pts; 2, Grasshoppers, 25; 3, Sion, 23.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: HFS Loans League 3, FA XI 1

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Walsall 1, Ipswich 0.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Miami Heat 111, Utah Jazz 91; Houston Rockets 90, New York Knicks 79; New Jersey Nets 122, Sacramento Kings 118; Seattle Supersonics 113, Washington Bullets 105; Milwaukee Bucks 127, Charlotte Hornets 104; Portland Trail Blazers 132, Los Angeles Clippers 112; Los Angeles Lakers 103, Phoenix Suns 95; Dallas Mavericks 96, Denver Nuggets 93.

MEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group A: Turkey 91, Netherlands 90. Group D: Romania 73, Greece 82.

BOWLS

COUNTY MATCHES: Cambridgeshire 115, Lincolnshire 130; Norfolk 126, Essex 117.

RUGBY UNION

SCOTTISH REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Midlands 20, Presidents XV 18.

SERVICES MATCH: Royal Marines 52, The Infantry 0.

SQUASH RACKETS

SRA WOMEN'S SUPERLEAGUE: IMS Courtlands 1, Talking Pages Windsor 2; Lee-on-Solent 3, Mossis Priory 0

BOXING

ATLANTIC CITY: Super-middleweight contest (10 rounds): Tony Thornton (US) bt Fermin Shinno (US), pts.

SYDNEY: World amateur championships: Semi-finals: Flyweight (51kg): Su Choe-Chol (N Kor) w/o J Strogov (Bul); I Kovacs (Hun) bt H Moustafa (Eg), pts. Feather (57kg): Park Duk-Kyu (S Kor) bt A Mesa (Cuba), pts; K Kirkorov (Bul) bt H Soltani (Alg), pts. Light-welter (63.5kg): K Czyu (USSR) bt M James (Nigeria), pts; V Forrest (US) bt C Duvergel (Cuba), disq 1st. Light-middle (71kg): E Akopkohian (USSR) bt O Klemetsen (Nor), pts; J Lemus (Cuba) bt T Schmitz (Ger), ko 2nd. Light-heavy (81kg): T May (Ger) bt M Gurgen (Tur), pts; A Kurnatvak (USSR) bt R Dale Brown (Can), pts. Super-heavy (over 91kg): S Rusanoff (Bul) bt L Donald (US), pts; R Balado (Cuba) bt E Belousov (USSR), pts.

RUGBY LEAGUE

REGAL TROPHY: First round: Bramley 18, Featherstone 18.

CYCLING

GHENT: Six-day race (after first night): 1, P Pieters (Neth) and S Tourne (Bel), 78pts; 2, E De Wilde (Bel) and A Doyle (GB), 71; 3, K Khrabzov and M Ganeev (USSR), 66; 4, R Van Slycke (Bel) and W Guenther (Ger), 64; 5, P Bincoletto (It) and J Veggerby (Den), 57; 6, B Holenweger and W Stutz (Switz), 36.

HOCKEY

CRYSTAL PALACE INDOOR LEAGUE: East Grinstead 10, Bromley 3; Old Bordenians 4, Beckenham 2; Hounslow 5, Purley 5.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Oxford University 1, Lacyullers 5.

TENNIS

AUCKLAND: Men's Challenger tournament: Singles: First round: S Stolle (Aus) bt M Petchey (GB) 6-4, 7-5.

TABLE TENNIS

BARCELONA: World Team Cup: Men: Group A: Sweden bt United States, 3-0; England bt Germany, 3-0 (England names first): Chen Xinhua bt P Franz, 20-22, 21-18, 24-22; A Cooke bt J Rosskopf, 21-19, 21-19; C Prean bt S Fetzner, 21-14, 21-17. Group B: Belgium bt Nigeria, 3-0; South Korea bt Canada, 3-2. Group C: Czechoslovakia bt Australia, 3-0; China bt Austria, 3-0. Group D: Yugoslavia bt Spain, 3-0; North Korea bt France, 3-2. Women: Group A: China bt Spain, 3-0; Sweden bt Soviet Union, 3-2. Group B: France bt Denmark, 3-0; Japan bt Finland, 3-0. Group C: Czechoslovakia bt Yugoslavia, 3-0; South Korea bt United States, 3-0. Group D: North Korea bt Australia, 3-0; Hungary bt England, 3-1 (Hungary names first): C Batorfi bt A Gordon, 21-13, 21-12; K Toth lost to L Lomas, 15-21, 12-21; K Nagy bt A Holt, 21-17, 15-21, 24-22; Batorfi bt Lomas, 21-13, 21-15

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit Red Wings 4, Chicago Blackhawks 1; New York Islanders 7, Minnesota North Stars 4; Los Angeles Kings 3, San Jose Sharks 2 OT; New York Rangers 4, Vancouver Canucks 3

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool v Bradford City (7.0); Sheffield United v Newcastle United (7.30); Sunderland v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

REGAL TROPHY: First-round replay: Featherstone v Bramley (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Scottish Open (Kelvin Hall, Glasgow).

SNOOKER: UK championship (Preston)

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YACHTING

Senna may set sail in round-the-world race

AYRTON Senna could be chasing very different sporting goals in two winters' time if plans go ahead for a Brazilian challenge in the next Whitbread Round the World Race (Barry Pickthall writes). The Formula One motor racing world champion may take on Cape Horn as a crew member aboard the yacht during the grand prix closed season.

Senna and Hortencia Oliva, a women's basketball gold medal winner for Brazil at the Pan-American Games, head an impressive cast of Brazilian yachtsmen who are keen to enter the 32,000-mile race for the first time. Senna would participate during the fourth leg of the race, from Auckland to Punta del Este in Uruguay.

The Brazilian skipper, Claus Peters, was in Lymington yesterday, looking to buy Maiden, Tracy Edwards's former Whitbread yacht, as a trail-horse for the crew.

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Bulgarians hold group two challengers

Scotland progress to finals after Romanians draw

By Roddy Forsyth

AGAINST the odds as well as the predictions of most observers, Scotland qualified *last night for the finals of the* European football championship — the first time they have gone so far in the tournament — as Bulgaria and Romania drew 1-1 in the final tie of group two in the Vassil Levski stadium in Sofia.

There was an element of good fortune in the Scots' progress because had Romania won 2-1, they would have joined England in the last eight in Sweden. In the first half, the Romanians took the lead when Adrian Popescu was able to fasten onto a downward header from Iliov, after a deceptive free kick, taken inevitably by Hagi, to shoot past the Bulgarian goalkeeper, Mikhailov.

At that stage, on the half-hour mark, the advantage was no more than Romania deserved, but it might easily have been greater had two incidents within the space of two minutes not proved unfortunate for the visitors.

In the first, the forward, Lacatus, had the ball in the net but was ruled offside in what was a close decision. There was nothing ambiguous about the penalty kick which Bulgaria conceded 90 seconds later, when Mikhailov brought down Rotariouiou. Hagi stepped up as usual to take the kick and he placed it to the goalkeeper's left, just as he had done when he scored against Andy Goram when the Scots visited Bucharest last month.

On that occasion, Goram guessed the direction of the kick correctly but slipped as he dived and could only divert the ball into the net. Last night, Mikhailov threw himself in the same direction and succeeded in blocking the kick and the ball was scrambled away. It will almost certainly be, the Romanians will feel, the moment which cost them their place in the finals and permitted Scotland to progress.

Ten minutes into the second half, much of the heart went out of the Romanian effort when Sirakov, so often the executioner for Bulgaria, pirouetted eight yards from the centre of goal to strike a cutback from Stoikhov cleanly beyond Lung in the Romanian goal.

GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	8	4	3	1	14	7	11
Switzerland	8	4	2	2	19	7	10
Romania	8	4	2	2	13	7	10
Bulgaria	8	3	3	2	15	8	9
San Marino	8	0	0	8	1	33	0

RESULTS: Scotland 2, Romania 1; Switzerland 2, Bulgaria 0; Romania 0, Bulgaria 3; Scotland 2, Switzerland 1; Bulgaria 1, Scotland 1; San Marino 0, Switzerland 4; Romania 6, San Marino 0; Scotland 1, Bulgaria 1, San Marino 1, Romania 3; Switzerland 0, Romania 0; Bulgaria 2, Switzerland 3; San Marino 0, Scotland 2; San Marino 0, Bulgaria 3; Switzerland 7, San Marino 0; Switzerland 2, Scotland 2; Romania 1, Scotland 0; Bulgaria 4, San Marino 0; Romania 1, Switzerland 0; Scotland 4, San Marino 0; Bulgaria 1, Romania 1.

FINALISTS

Group one: France
Group two: Scotland
Group three: Soviet Union
Group four: Yugoslavia
Group five: Wales or Germany
Group six: Netherlands or Portugal or Greece
Group seven: England
Hosts: Sweden

Thereafter, Bulgaria were in charge of the contest but for the Scottish watchers at home, and in Sofia, where Andy Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, was in attendance, the game assumed a heart-stopping slow motion character.

Although the margin of qualification was wafer-thin, Roxburgh afterwards rejected the suggestion that Scotland had ridden to Sweden on the backs of the Bulgarians. "When people look at the group table, they will see that we won on points, just as our under-21 team did on Tuesday night," he said.

"When the section began last year, Romania were favourites to win both the senior and the under-21 qualification places. Switzerland were probably reckoned to be second and it was really between Bulgaria and us to make up the numbers.

"We have used 29 players, sometimes in situations where we deployed a patchwork team, with lads playing out of position in order to fill gaps. Yet we have come through and for the first time in our history we have reached the finals of a tournament which has always been difficult for us.

Roxburgh: ebullient

"It is not made any easier for us in the European championships when the League programme in Scotland is not postponed on the Saturdays before our fixtures. You have seen how much disruption we have been caused through injuries but it says a very great deal for the *team spirit we have developed* that we have been able to qualify from one of the most difficult sections in the competition."

Looking to the future, Scotland intend to set up a number of internationals in preparation for their journey to Sweden. Already, Northern Ireland are scheduled to visit Hampden Park in February and the following month, the Scots will probably play either Brazil or Italy. As soon as the *domestic season ends, in May,* they are likely to embark on a four-game tour of Mexico, the United States, Canada and Iceland, but the immediate run-up to the finals will be spent with the players gathered together at home in Scotland.

Roxburgh will fly home tomorrow, able to bask in the distinction of being the manager who succeeded where all of his predecessors had failed. What he must hope for now is that the team he will take to Sweden is regarded as underdogs, traditionally the epithet which draws the best performance from Scottish players.

☐ Maurice Johnston's international career with Scotland may be over after the forward, signed for £1.6 million by Everton this week, infuriated Roxburgh by comments he made in a national newspaper.

Unless Johnston makes a public apology after the Scotland coach returns from Sofia, he may never play for his country again.

Roxburgh enticed Johnston out of retirement last February after the 14-goal international retired after the World Cup finals in Italy. "I am bitterly disappointed" he said.

JAMES GRAY

Flavour of the month: Lineker, England captain and first division top scorer, goes oriental as he savours the prospect of his next career move

Lineker to leave Tottenham for Japan

By Dennis Signy

GARY Lineker, the captain of England, confirmed yesterday that he would leave Tottenham Hotspur at the end of this season to play for the Japanese club, Grampus Eight.

Lineker, who will be 31 on November 30, has signed a two-year contract that is reported to be worth as much as £3 million to him and just under £1 million to Tottenham.

Terry Venables, the London club's chief executive, said *yesterday* that Tottenham could have obtained more for Lineker by selling him to a team in Italy and that he had been offered "twice the amount of money" they were getting from Japan.

The news of Lineker's departure, in the wake of Paul Gascoigne's likely move to Lazio in Italy next May, was announced at a crowded press conference at Tottenham by the player, Venables, Alan Sugar, the co-owner of Tottenham, and Christian Flood, representing the Japanese League, which is to start in 1993.

Lineker, who is top scorer in the first division with 19 goals and three short of Bobby Charlton's record total of 49 for England, said: "Another trophy would be a tremendous way to say goodbye. I want to go out with a bang, being *successful with Tottenham* and England. It was always my intention to go out at the top. I hope, with the European championship, I will be doing just that."

Lineker's timetable is to continue with Tottenham until the end of this season, a year before his contract ends, play for England in the European championship, then to take an an extended break, with two holidays; playing cricket, and going to the Olympics and the Open golf championship. He will join Grampus Eight in Nagoya in February 1993, having in the meantime attempted to grasp the basics of Japanese.

Grampus, who have two stadiums, one holding 30,000 the other 15,000, will be one of ten teams playing in the new Japanese League. The teams, on the lines of the Scottish *premier* division, will play each other four times.

Lineker, who declined to discuss his personal terms and said his plan had been to retire at the end of his contract next season until this option arose, stressed he was going to Japan primarily as a player, but also to help promote the game. The World Cup, he said had attracted wide interest in Japan, which hopes to host the tournament in 2002.

Lineker said he saw the move as an adventure and the fact that he was the first choice of the Japanese club had been a boost to his ego. "I would be a liar if I said the financial rewards weren't of interest," he added. Lineker said he would miss most of all the passion of English crowds; "I didn't experience it in Spain."

Jon Holmes, Lineker's agent, said that the Japanese interest began in March when four fax messages arrived from the Grampus club and from agents. Tottenham were told, but at that stage it was uncertain who owned the club or whether its existence was assured.

Venables refused to say when Tottenham would receive the £1 million, but Sugar said of the club's finances that he hoped there would be "a bright light at the end of the tunnel" at the end of next month. Tottenham's annual meeting is on December 19 when, if all goes well, details of the club's financial structure would be revealed. Sugar said annual results to May 31 should be announced next week.

Tottenham's first task, Sugar added, was still to reduce the debts incurred by some previous "bad business" and diversification in the company. He had been "horrified" at the extent of the debts he and Venables took over.

Lineker, who joined Tottenham from Barcelona for £1.2 million in August 1989, said, "I hope people will remember what I have done in this country."

Germans arrested as disturbances flare

Brussels — Belgian police detained almost 200 German football supporters yesterday after large groups charged through Brussels's main shopping street, broke windows and tried to loot shops.

About 30 Germans were arrested for carrying baseball bats, drugs, CS gas canisters or for hitting passers-by. But most were simply detained because they had no tickets for last night's Euopean championship match between Belgium and Germany.

A police spokesman said mounted police dispersed a group of 400 to 500 would-be looters. Similar incidents were reported *elsewhere* in the city centre.

"We don't care whether Germany wins or loses," one masked fan told Belgian television. "We're just here to smash up the town."

Police horses, some of them at the gallop, according to bystanders, dispersed about *50 young Germans in a side* street near the city's main shopping precinct, Rue Neuve, after several shop windows had been broken.

In later confrontations, mounted police staged several more charges near the central railway station to break up groups of troublemakers. About 30 were arrested inside the station after thowing bottles and stopping passengers from catching trains.

Police said that many forged *tickets had been found in* police checks on supporters as they arrived for the game in the Anderlecht suburb of Brussels. *(Reuter)*

Howe takes experience to Coventry

By Chris Moore

DON Howe, the former Arsenal and Queens' Park Rangers manager, returns to full-time employment today as the first-team coach at Coventry City.

Howe, who was deputy to the former England manager, Bobby Robson, at last year's World Cup in Italy, has been coaching Barnet on a part-time basis this season.

His appointment at Highfield Road last night came less than 24 hours after Terry Butcher, the Coventry manager, dismissed his assistantmanager, Mick Mills, and the reserve- team coach, Brian Eastick.

They became the first casualties of the new regime at Highfield Road following last week's return of Peter Robins as chairman.

Howe will work without a contract until the end of the season. "That will give all parties concerned the chance to see how things go," Butcher said. "But as far as I'm concerned, I'm hoping it's going to prove a long-term *partnership and that he'll be* signing a contract next summer."

"It's a major coup for Coventry to attract someone with his knowledge and experience," Butcher said.

Howe said: "I've known Terry throughout our England days and have a lot of respect for him. I have enjoyed my time at Barnet, but I'm delighted to be back in the game on a full-time basis again, particularly with a first *division club. It's going to be* an exciting new challenge."

Butcher, meanwhile, was last night given an unequivocal vote of confidence by Robins in a bid to end speculation about his own future at Highfield Road. "To suggest his position has changed is absolute rubbish," Robins said.

"He is the right man for the *job — it's as simple as that.* We get on like a house on fire and see eye to eye on everything. He has a long contract here and we are certain he is going to prove himself a tremendous manager."

The Arsenal manager, George Graham, took his season's spending to £3.5 million when the Norwegian international defender, Paal Lydersen, completed his delayed move to Highbury. The left back from FK Start signed *for £500,000* after problems over his work permit were solved. He now has his sights set on a first-team place.

More than 7,000 West Ham supporters who have registered with the club's debenture scheme were told today that the Hammers Bond would not cost them more than £1,000.

West Ham are hoping to *raise more than £15 million* to meet the cost of converting Upton Park to seats only to conform to the recommendations of the Taylor Report.

They had already said the cheapest bond would be £500 — and that raised fears that the more expensive debentures would be more than £2,000.

Brian Talbot, the Aldershot manager and managing director, said that the struggling fourth division club could face closure before Christmas. "We have been given three days by the Inland Revenue to pay a £92,000 bill — we simply do not have that sort of money," he said.

Brittain hopes early bird catches Japan Cup

From Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT
TOKYO

CLIVE Brittain is usually one step ahead of the field. First out with his horses at Newmarket, first British trainer to win a Breeders' Cup race, in 1985, and the Japan Cup, a year later, he stole another march on his rivals yesterday.

While other British trainers were still making the long journey to Japan, Brittain and Michael Roberts, his regular jockey, were at Tokyo's impressive racecourse at breakfast time, being reunited with Terimon.

On Sunday, the grey five-year-old, owned by Lady Beaverbrook, will attempt to follow the example set in 1986 by Jupiter Island by winning the Japan Cup and making Brittain the first trainer to have sent out two winners of this prestigious race.

The eleventh running of the *invitation event promises* to be one of the most open as Terimon, Rock Hopper, and Drum Taps, from Britain, join Magic Night, Wajd and Splash Of Colour, from France, Golden Pheasant, from the United States, Shaftesbury Avenue, from Australia, and Rough Habit, from New Zealand, in taking on home-based opposition.

The likely favourite for the £660,000 first prize will be Mejiro McQueen, Japan's horse of the year elect, who has won top domestic events over distances ranging from ten furlongs to two miles. He will be ridden by Yutaka Take, a gifted jockey, aged 21, who has pop-star status.

Brittain was in a buoyant mood as he supervised the first piece of serious work for Terimon since the horse emerged from seven days' quarantine. Roberts pushed and pumped on the grey during a vigorous nine-furlong spin on the inner dirt track.

Surrounded by about 40 Japanese journalists who hung on his every word, Brittain was confident about the chances of his Juddmonte International Stakes winner. "My horse is in very good condition. We are pleased with his workout this morning and he is coming right up to his best racing weight of 486 kilos. On his best day, he would be good enough. My experience is that you must have luck and a good draw. Our biggest danger is Lady Luck.

"Terimon has only run one below-par race this season, in the Champion Stakes, and afterwards we found some mucous in his throat and his blood count was a little bit off. But now the blood is spot-on."

Brittain rates his runner superior to Jupiter Island, but hopes a quirky link between the pair will pay off. "In 1986, Jupiter Island was first reserve for the race, but one dropped out and so we ran. Terimon was also first reserve initially, so I hope history repeats itself."

Trainer and jockey then walked the track, confirming the state of the going — firm.

Drum Taps is stabled next door to Terimon and has clearly travelled well. The Lord Huntingdon-trained five-year-old was ridden by Eddie Taylor during a nine-furlong workout yesterday and delighted *Denis Coakley*, the assistant trainer.

Rock Hopper, winner of three group two races this season, arrived at the racetrack during the afternoon after completing his quarantine period. Michael Stoute's runner was accompanied by Mellaby, who acts as his lead horse during gallops.

Jimmy Scott, the head travelling lad to Stoute, said: "He travelled very well and has not left an oat since he arrived. He lost 20 kilos during the journey but put it back on within two days. If he is top-hole he will take a lot of beating."

Brittain: confident

More racing, page 37

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Sun.
The Story of a Computer Manufacturer.

PART 1 - SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

Sun Microsystems manufacture Workstations at factories in Silicon Valley, Ca. and Silicon Glen, Scotland. (A Workstation is to a Personal Computer as a horse is to a donkey).

Other firms making workstations include IBM, Digital Equipment Co, Hewlett Packard, Sony and Fujitsu. Against this competition, Sun's market share statistics are as follows:

Number 1 in installed base – 450,000 sold.
Number 1 in annual sales – more than 39%.
Number 1 in RISC sales – more than 63%.
Number 1 in applications – around 3600.
1981 worldwide sales – nil.
1991 worldwide sales – $3,221,292,000.00.

One reason why Sun grew so fast is that it leads the world in Open Systems. In two respects.

1. Every Sun workstation and server (horse with elephant's memory) is delivered complete with the NFS network system allowing it to communicate with more or less any other computer, anywhere.

2. Sun's SPARC processor technology has, through SPARC International, been placed in the public domain. It is now an international standard. De, as we have been asked to point out, facto.

Only a few lines left for Morse Computers Ltd. Morse's market share statistic is as follows:

Number 1 reseller in annual UK sales of Sun workstations.

sun Authorised Reseller of the Year 1991

MORSE

Morse Computers Ltd, 78 High Holborn,
London WC1. 071-831 0644.

West London Showroom: 17 Sheen Lane, Mortlake SW14. 081-876 0404.

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